FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-070
Wednesday
11 April 1990

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-070 CONTENTS *11 April 1990*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Says Iraq's Position 'Very Responsible' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Apr]* 1
Mubarak, Saddam Discuss Israeli 'Threats' *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 9 Apr]* 1
Saddam, Al-Asad To Revive 'Eastern Front' *[AL-ITTIHAD 8 Apr]* 2
Jordan's Al-Qasim on Need for Arab Summit *[Amman Radio]* 2
Al-Qasim Meets With 'Arafat, Qaddumi, Khelil *[Amman Radio]* 3
'Arafat Sends Message to Syria's Al-Asad *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 11 Apr]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference on U.S. Jerusalem Decision *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 9 Apr]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Jerusalem Committee Meeting *[Baghdad VOP]* 3
    Address at Committee *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
Fatah's Official Advocates Armed Struggle *[AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 4 Apr]* 5
Hurani Criticizes State Department Position *[AL-BAYAN 8 Apr]* 7
Radio Criticizes U.S. 'Twisted Logic' in Region *[Baghdad VOP]* 7
PLO Factions in Jordan Discuss Reshaping PNC *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Apr]* 8
Al-Najjab Urges Arab Coordination for Conference *[AL-BAYAN 7 Apr]* 8
Resistance Movement Asked To Join Intifadah *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 9
Hamas Wants 'Retreat' From Algerian Resolutions *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Apr]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ghazali Assails Israel, Anti-Iraq 'Campaign' *[Algiers Radio]* 10

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Jewish Immigration *[MENA]* 10
Pakistani Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak *[MENA]* 11
    Departs Cairo 11 Apr *[MENA]* 11
Chadian Envoy Arrives With Habre Message *[MENA]* 11
Editorial Demands 'Clarification' of U.S. Policy *[AL-AHRAM 9 Apr]* 11
Editorial on Arab's 'Passive Response' to Israel *[AL-AKHBAR 8 Apr]* 12

Libya

France is 'Grateful' for Release of Hostages *[JANA]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Release of Prisoners in West *[JANA]* 12
'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 10 Apr for Visit *[Tripoli International]* 13

Sudan

Neswpaper Interviews Al-Bashir in Khartoum *[AL-ANBA' 7 Apr]* 13

Armed Forces 'Will Not Falter' Despite Adversity [*Omdurman Radio*] ... 15
Al-Bashir Comments on New Arab Grouping [*London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Apr*] ... 15
Four Ministers 'Relieved', Replacements Named [*Omdurman Radio*] ... 16
'Umar Al-Bashir Swears In New Officials [*SUNA*] ... 16
'Ali Sahlul Interviewed on Regional Concerns [*'UKAZ 1 Apr*] ... 16
Foreign Minister on U.S. Ties, Peace Initiative [*WAKH*] ... 17
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Criticism of Iraq [*SUNA*] ... 17
Council Approves Security Agreement With Uganda [*SUNA*] ... 17
Deputy Chairman RCC Sees Iraqi Ambassador [*SUNA*] ... 18
Movement Deputy Leader Cited on Four-Point Plan [*AL-MUSAWWAR 6 Apr*] ... 18
Commentary Sees Al-Bashir in 'Apparent Panic' [*Radio SPLA*] ... 18
Rebels Say Juba Evacuatees Ambushed by Army [*Radio SPLA*] ... 19
'Diplomatic Source' on Mutiny Against Garang [*SUNA*] ... 19
Ibrahim Accepted as New Envoy to Djibouti [*SUNA*] ... 19

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives PLO's 'Arafat, Qaddumi [*Tunis Radio*] ... 19
    Ben Ali, 'Arafat View Arab Issues [*Tunis Radio*] ... 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir 'Rejects' Interference in Iraq's Affairs [*WAKH*] ... 21
Shaykh 'Isa Cited on Lebanon, Gulf Ties, Bazoft [*London AL-TADAMUN 9 Apr*] ... 21

Kuwait

Cabinet Agrees To Send Lebanon Food, Medical Aid [*KUNA*] ... 21
Citizens 'Kidnapped' by Iranians Return Home [*AL-ANBA' 4 Apr*] ... 22
Editorial Praises Saddam's Warning to Israel [*ARAB TIMES 4 Apr*] ... 22
Foreign Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia Visit [*KUNA*] ... 22
Crown Prince Says Parliament To Be Restored [*ARAB TIMES 9 Apr*] ... 23
    Further on 'Parliamentary Life' [*KUNA*] ... 23
Shaykh Salim Addresses London Drug Forum [*KUNA*] ... 23

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Opens Special Session [*Aden Radio*] ... 24
    Concludes Session 4 Apr [*Aden Radio*] ... 24
Soviet Military Delegation Arrives in Sayiun [*Aden Radio*] ... 25
Al-'Attas, Saddam Talk Stresses Support for Iraq [*Aden Radio*] ... 25
Pro-YAR Suspects Freed; Party Renamed [*London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Apr*] ... 25

Qatar

Amir Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message [*WAKH*] ... 26

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Meets With Kuwait's Foreign Minister [*Riyadh Radio*] ... 26
Paper on 'Obstacles' to Regional Peace Process [*SPA*] ... 26
Spokesman on Senate Resolution on Jerusalem [*AL-YAWM 30 Mar*] ... 27

United Arab Emirates

North Yemen's President Salih Arrives for Talks [*Sanaa Radio*] ... 27

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Interior Minister Arrives With Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Foreign Minister Departs for Amman Meetings *[Sanaa Radio]* 28
Foreign Minister Returns From Amman, Cairo Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 28

IRAQ

Expelled U.S. Diplomat Leaves Baghdad 9 Apr *[WAKH]* 29
U.S. 'Direct Partner' in 'Zionist Terrorism' *[INA]* 29
AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Bush Statements *[INA]* 29

ISRAEL

Last-Minute Changes Delay Knesset Vote on Peres 31
  Accord, Support Reached *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  MK Verdiger Resigns *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  Knesset Debates Presentation *[Jerusalem Radio, etc.]* 31
  Peres Remains 'Optimistic' *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
  Rejects Unity, Rotation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
  Peres on Guidelines, Cabinet *[Jerusalem TV]* 33

JORDAN

U.S. Senate Delegation Visits; Resolution Viewed *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Apr]* 39
King Addresses Royal Commission on Charter *[Amman TV]* 39

LEBANON

Freed Hostages Depart Beirut Airport *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Fatah Revolutionary Council on Hostage Release *[Voice of the People]* 42
Further on Condition for Belgians' Release *[KUNA]* 42
Ja'ja' Says Lebanese Forces To Remain Separate *[RFL]* 42
Al-Hirawi Chairs Cabinet Meeting 10 Apr *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 43
Interior Minister Al-Khazin Arrives in Bkirki *[VOL]* 43
Complaint to UN Issued on Israeli Acts in South *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Israeli Position in Hasbayya Attacked *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Intermittent Sniper Fire Reported in Eastern Area *[RFL]* 43
Amal-Hizballah Clashes in Southern Suburb *[RFL]* 43
  Further Clashes Reported *[RFL]* 43

SYRIA

'Comprehensive' Peace With Guarantees Sought *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Al-Shar' Denies Talking With Israeli Newspaper *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Apr]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on Political Situation *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Soviet POW Handed Over to Ambassador in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Attempts 'To Neutralize' Pakistan 'Attacks' *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Battles, Casualties in Provinces Reported *[BAKHTAR]* 45
Rebels Reportedly Down Afghan Jet, Capture Pilot *[AFP]* 45
Rebel Arms Convoy Captured in Ambush; 5 Captured *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Ministerial Council Discusses Culture, Mass Media *[BAKHTAR]* 46

India

'Subversives' Kill Two Remaining Hostages *[Delhi Radio]* 46

    Singh Condemns Killings *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
    'Massive Manhunt' Launched *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
Singh Says Pakistan 'Encouraging Insurgency' *[AFP]* ... 47
    Warns Pakistan on 'Anti-Indian' Acts *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
Prime Minister Speaks on Defense Budget *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
    Comments on Regional Issues *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
Kashmiri 'Terrorists' Interviewed on Training *[Delhi TV]* ... 49
Government Hopes for Punjab Elections in 6 Months *[AFP]* ... 50
Two West Delhi Police Stations Bombed *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
    Nine Policemen Injured *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
Bomb Explodes on Bombay Train; Over 20 Injured *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
India-Cuba Joint Commission Holds First Session *[Delhi TV]* ... 50
Oil, Gas Commission Reaches Target Early *[Delhi Radio]* ... 51

Iran

TEHRAN TIMES Calls for Hostage Release *[IRNA]* ... 51
    Further on TEHRAN TIMES Appeal *[AFP]* ... 51
*Rafsanjani Said Involved in Waite's Capture *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 52
*Text of Majles Statement on Hostage Issue *[RESALAT 25 Mar]* ... 52
U.S. Silence on Iraqi Expulsion From UN Noted *[IRNA]* ... 53
Economic Saboteurs Subject to Death Sentence *[IRNA]* ... 53
    Bill Called 'Not Sufficient' *[IRNA]* ... 53
Nobari, USSR's Bessmertnykh Discuss Relations *[IRNA]* ... 54
Talks Held With Lebanese Shiite Official *[IRNA]* ... 54
Parliamentary Union Delegate on Jewish Emigration *[Tehran Radio]* ... 54
New Commission To Implement Italian Agreement *[IRNA]* ... 54
Va'ezi Notes Outcome of Talks With French *[IRNA]* ... 55
Foreign Minister Receives Ugandan Special Envoy *[Tehran Radio]* ... 55
Foreign Journalists Invited to Al-Quds Celebration *[IRNA]* ... 55
Saddam's 'Dire Threats' Called Hypocritical *[TEHRAN TIMES 4 Apr]* ... 55
Editorial Views Western 'Double Standards' *[TEHRAN TIMES 3 Apr]* ... 56
Karrubi Chairs 10 Apr Majles Open Session *[Tehran Radio]* ... 56
    Further on Majles Speech *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* ... 57
President Recommends Research To Assist Economy *[Tehran Radio]* ... 57
Political Commentary Given on Week's Events *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* ... 58
ETTELA'AT Interviews Deputy Mohtashemi *[19 Mar]* ... 59
TEHRAN TIMES Interviews Ayatollah Jannati *[5 Apr]* ... 61
Navy Plans To Recruit Basij Members Announced *[IRNA]* ... 61
*French Court Votes for Return of Loan *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 61
*'Secret' National Security Directives Issued *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 62
*Majles Makes Disclosures on 1990-91 Budget *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 62
*Unofficial Martial Law Reported in Esfahan *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 63
*Disturbances, Opposition Reported in Schools *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 63
*Large Crowds Respond to Bakhtiar's Call *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 64
*6,000 Cross Border in First 3 Days of New Year *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 64
*Minister of Education Announces New Appointments *[KEYHAN 3 Mar]* ... 64
    *More New Appointments Announced *[KEYHAN 1 Mar]* ... 65
*Khalkhali Comments on High Cost of Living *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 65
*Exports of Crude to Italy Increased in 1989 *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 65
*Request Made for Islamic Development Bank Loan *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 65
*IMF To Study Request for Financial, Technical Aid *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 66
*Plans To Eliminate Utilities Subsidies Announced *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 66
Cabinet Allocates Reconstruction Credit *[Tehran Radio]* ... 66
*Reconstruction of War-Damaged Cities Delayed *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 66
Official Says Airports To Be Built, Remodeled *[Tehran Radio]* ... 67
Statistics' Monthly Cited on Population Growth *[Tehran Radio]* ... 67
Editorial Comments on Population Problem *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 18 Mar]* ... 67
*Tehran's Population To Exceed 20 Million in 2011 *[London KEYHAN 29 Mar]* ... 68
Antinarcotics Unit Seizes Opium, Arrests Two *[Tehran Radio]* ... 68

Nepal

Foreign Minister Says Role of King To Change *[AFP]* 68
Nepali Congress Stakes Claim To Form Government *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Prime Minister Pledges Quick Action on Reforms *[AFP]* 69

Pakistan

One Killed, Four Injured in Hyderabad Shooting *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Current Situation in Sindh Province Reviewed *[AFP]* 70
PPP Youth Leader Dies; Tanks Deployed *[AFP]* 71
'Extraordinary' Security Measures in Karachi *[BBC]* 71
Official Says Japan To Increase Aid Package *[Tokyo KYODO]* 71
Production of Tank, Armored Vehicles Hailed *[JANG 20 Mar]* 72
Editorial: India 'Must Learn' From Intervention *[DAWN 30 Mar]* 72

Sri Lanka

Government Says Tamil Areas Returning to Normal *[AFP]* 73
President Holds Talks With LTTE Leaders *[AFP]* 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Says Iraq's Position 'Very Responsible'

PM1004150290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Brussels; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Yahyawi] Mr. Secretary General, to begin with, how would you assess the Arab League delegation's meetings with the European troika?

[Klibi] The Arab side attending the Luxembourg meeting comprised three ministers—namely, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Tunisian Foreign Minister Isma'il Khelil, and Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the state of Palestine, in addition to the Arab League secretary general and Ambassador Husayn al-Kamil, who represented Egypt. The European side was headed by Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins and included French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Italian Foreign Minister De Michelis. It was an opportunity for the two sides to exchange views on a number of issues within the framework of consultation between the Arab states and the EC states, especially in view of the reactivation of the Arab-European dialogue following the ministerial conference in Paris late in December under France's chairmanship. That important conference imparted a new impetus to the Arab-European dialogue which had faltered at one point.

The Luxembourg meeting was very important, as it was possible to confer on a number of aspects concerning the Middle East issue and the Palestine question, specifically the efforts made by several parties in recent months to advance the peace process. This is in addition to the results expected from the present Israeli Government crisis and whether it will result in a new government capable of conducting a dialogue, recognizing the Palestinian reality, and accepting the rights granted to the Palestinian people by international law. The talks focused especially on the Soviet Jews' emigration to Palestine. The Arab viewpoint was summed up as follows: The Arab states do not object to the Soviet Jews' right to emigrate from the Soviet Union—a right endorsed by the UN declaration on human rights. The Arab states adhere to international law and recognize that right. The PLO too recognizes and supports that right, because it represents a people who are denied their rights, so it cannot fail to support the rights of other peoples seeking freedom and the right to determine their own future. All that the Arab states are opposed to is the Soviet Jews' having the right to immigrate to Palestine, because Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinians. Soviet Jews cannot be entitled to live in a homeland where most of its legitimate inhabitants cannot live.

The settlement of Soviet emigrants is a threat to Palestine's existence in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. This is why we are strongly opposed to the Soviet Jews' right to emigrate to emigrate to Palestine in general, because their presence would pose a threat to the Palestinian people's rights and to the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Yahyawi] Did you discuss with them the question of the Soviet Jews' being received by Europe?

[Klibi] We asked the Europeans to clearly announce their willingness to receive Soviet emigrants wanting to settle in Europe.

[Al-Yahyawi] The European states are launching a frantic campaign against, Iraq which some believe is a preparation for an Israeli aggression against Iraq.

[Klibi] What Iraq said was normal. Iraq said that if it was exposed to a bombardment similar to that of 1981, it would not stand idly by. Where is the threat in Iraq's statement? Where is the irresponsibility which the West is talking about? On the contrary, I think Iraq's statement is very responsible, because the Iraqi Government is defending its sovereignty and declaring its determination to retaliate. Besides, why all that clamor against Iraq because of the mere suspicion that it is seeking to possess a nuclear capability, while saying nothing about Israel, which does possess a nuclear capability? If there is any danger in the region, it stems primarily from Israel, and the responsibility for this lies with the states which helped Israel to acquire a nuclear capability; it lies with the states which keep quiet about Israel's aggressive practices against the Palestinian people and against all the countries of the region—the states which in fact provide it with military, economic, and financial aid.

[Al-Yahyawi] What about the al-Rabitah factory in Libya?

[Klibi] According to Libyan statements, it is a pharmaceutical plant. Besides, it was gutted by fire and it has been proved that it cannot remain operational in its present condition, as it must be rebuilt, and what was destroyed must be replaced. Libya has announced that it accepts international supervision in that field in all the states of the region.

Mubarak, Saddam Discuss Israeli 'Threats'

JN1004211690 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Apr 90 pp 1, 24

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has asked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to study the possibility of Egypt's abrogation of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Israel in the event of an Israeli aggression against Iraq.

This was revealed to AL-SIYASAH by informed sources who said that the request was made during the short visit paid by President Mubarak to Baghdad the day before yesterday. The visit was aimed at soothing tense U.S.-Iraqi relations in the wake of Iraqi warnings to burn half of Israel if it attacked Iraq. The Iraqi president had declared earlier that Iraq possesses the means to do that, namely, binary chemicals.

Explaining his views to Saddam, Mubarak said that the current atmosphere of threats and counterthreats gives Yitzhaq Shamir a good opportunity to torpedo peace efforts by carrying out an attack against Iraq before the formation of a government by Peres.

For his part, the Iraqi president replied with the utmost clarity and frankness that the Iraqi leadership does not believe in the policy of burying one's head in the sand like an ostrich in dealing with the big powers. He said Iraq believes this policy has become outdated after Iraq's successful steadfastness in the war with Iran and after achieving a military victory despite the plotting of all the big powers, without exception, throughout the various stages of the war.

The Iraqi president asked his Egyptian guest to discuss the possibility of abrogating the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty if Iraq came under Israeli attack.

Saddam said that Egypt is committed to defending Iraq in accordance with the Arab League Charter, the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and Egypt's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council. Therefore, Saddam does not believe in the possibility of Egyptian mediation between Iraq and Israel.

The Iraqi president added that the atmosphere that might emerge after an Israeli aggression against Iraq and Iraq's response to it might expedite the settlement process rather than obstruct it. He said such a situation would also raise the ceiling of Arab demands in settlement talks after adding Iraqi weight to the Arab side of the equation in the conflict.

Saddam, Al-Asad To Revive 'Eastern Front'

JN0904162690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Apr 90 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] Baghdad/Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—An Iraqi-Egyptian summit was held yesterday in Baghdad to discuss all aspects of the Arab situation. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has reacted to the statements made by U.S. President George Bush on Tuesday in which he asked the Iraqi president to withdraw his warnings to Israel. The Iraqi president asked the U.S. President to withdraw his statements, which are hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation.

In this regard, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan have agreed to lay down a unified military strategy to deter Israel's threats against the Arab nation. AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad agreed to revive the "eastern front" and to continue contacts among the frontline states in this regard. AL- ITTIHAD also learned that Cairo has convinced Baghdad and Damascus to halt the media campaigns against each other. [passage omitted]

According to Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo, the recent contacts among Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and King Husayn of Jordan have resulted in an agreement to lay down a unified military strategy for the frontline states to face the constant Israeli threats against Iraq and Jordan.

These sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the Jordanian king last week received the approval of Presidents Saddam Husayn and al-Asad to revive the eastern front against Israel, and that the frontline states have agreed to continue the contacts among Cairo, Amman, Damascus, and Baghdad to agree on practical steps to revive the front.

The sources also stressed that Mubarak was successful in convincing Saddam and al-Asad to halt the media campaigns against each other in order to ease the tension, and that Mubarak and the Jordanian king are currently seeking to get Saddam and al-Asad to hold a face-to-face meeting either in Amman or Cairo for an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Al-Qasim on Need for Arab Summit

JN0904184590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized the need for an Arab summit to plan a joint Arab agenda that can seriously and objectively deal with the grave challenges facing the Arab nation and make Thae Arab nation capable of defending its rights and dealing with new world developments.

Meeting with correspondents of Arab news agencies in Tunis today, Mr. al-Qasim said that no Arab country can unilaterally deal with the danger of Jewish emigration and Israel's expansion schemes. He asserted that these hostile schemes are not only the neighboring countries' concern; years later, they will extend to other countries which will be subject to the danger of Israeli expansion both in terms of people and security.

He pointed out that the Arab Cooperation Council, which Jordan is proud to be part of, is always seeking cooperation and coordination with Arab groupings within the framework of the Arab League. He noted that no Arab country, no matter how strong and wealthy, can singlehandedly deal with the world which has turned into a mass of blocs.

On the meetings of the 12th session of the Jerusalem Committee in the Moroccan capital in which he participated, Mr. al-Qasim said the committee has laid the foundations for Arabs and Muslims to deal with the dimensions of Jewish emigration, the status of the city of Jerusalem and the real danger the holy city is being subjected to, and the fallacies contained in the U.S. Congress and Senate stands on Jerusalem. He noted that His Majesty King Husayn a week ago sent to the U.S. Administration and Senate and House leaders a refutation of the claims on which they have established their position toward Jerusalem.

Al-Qasim Meets With 'Arafat, Qaddumi, Khelil

JN0904144190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] In Tunis, Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met last night separately with Ismail Khelil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. They discussed bilateral Jordanian-Palestinian and Jordanian-Tunisian relations, as well as the general Arab situation.

Mr. al-Qasim arrived in Tunis last night from Rabat on his way to Amman after representing Jordan in the 12th round of the Jerusalem Committee meetings held recently in the Moroccan capital.

[Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic at 1450 GMT on 8 April, in a Rabat-datelined report, says that al-Qasim met "last night" in Rabat with Yasir 'Arafat, who asked him "to convey a message and greetings to His Majesty King Husayn."]

'Arafat Sends Message to Syria's Al-Asad

JN1104081390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Apr 90 Second Edition p 1

[Text] Amman—Fatah Central Committee member Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, also known as Umm Jihad, left Amman yesterday for Damascus at the invitation of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. She carries a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the latest developments in the situation in the region.

Mrs. al-Wazir's visit comes in the wake of President 'Arafat's meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Tunis during the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council.

Umm Jihad will discuss with President al-Asad and other leading Syrian officials several issues pertaining to Palestinian-Syrian relations with the view to promoting and normalizing these relations in the interest of joint Arab action to confront the current challenges facing the Arab nation.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference on U.S. Jerusalem Decision

JN0904120990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Apr 90 First Edition p 2

[Excerpt] Amman - SAWT AL-SHA'B—The Executive Committee of the General Islamic Conference on Jerusalem has expressed concern and deep regret over the discriminatory U.S. Senate decison considering Jerusalem a united city and the capital of Israel.

The Executive Body noted in a statement issued on 8 April at the end of an emergency session held on 7 April that the decision constitutes a discriminatory stand and direct attack on Jerusalem, its future, and the efforts which the United States claims it is making to realize a just peace in the region.

The statement called on the Arab and Islamic governments and peoples to declare their position and draw up a comprehensive plan to gather Arab Islamic rank to call for reconsidering this decision and requesting the UN secretary general and chairman of the Security Council to undertake efforts to cancel the resolution by considering it contradictory to the UN resolutions.

On another level, the statement affirmed that the unjust campaign against Iraq by Zionism and its old and new colonialist allies amounts to an open war against the entire Arab and Islamic nation.

The Executive Body of the General Islamic Conference had held an emergency meeting the day before yesterday to study the U.S. Congress decision on Jerusalem and the aggressive campaign against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Jerusalem Committee Meeting

JN0704201890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has warned that Israel plans to settle 3 million new Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union, East Europe, and Ethiopia in the region by the end of this century in hopes of doubling its population.

In a speech to the Jerusalem Committee, which began an emergency meeting late last night in Rabat under King Hassan II of Morocco, brother leader president Abu 'Ammar said that the Arab nation is facing a serious challenge and that Israel plans to occupy more Arab territory. Brother leader president Abu 'Ammar added that the Ethiopian Jews have already been sent to reside in the buffer zone that Israeli occupation troops established in southern Lebanon and that this constitutes the beginning of an attempt to realize the dream of a greater Israel.

Address at Committee

JN0904203890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1808 GMT 9 Apr 90

["Text" of address by Yasir 'Arafat to the "opening session" of the Jerusalem Committee in Rabat—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Glory to God, who did take His servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque, whose precincts we did bless, in order that we might show Him some of our signs: for He is the one who heareth and seeth all things. [Koranic verses]

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies the Ministers, brother gentlemen and attendees. First of all, I ask his majesty the king to accept from me, the people of Palestine, and the children of Palestine, our deep gratitude for this kind initiative, his call to convene our committee—the Jerusalem Committee—amid the difficult and fateful circumstances that the Palestine question is undergoing. Whenever things get complicated we have come to your majesty to complain or discuss a predicament with you. Thanks to God, we have always found you with Palestine, the people of Palestine, the just Palestinian cause, the land that witnessed the nocturnal journey, the cradle of Christ—on whom the blessing of God—and the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. You have always been a man of challenge, faith, and decision.

Therefore, once more I express my thanks and gratitude to you for this invitation to our committee—the Jerusalem Committee—especially as we are facing a new challenge that is more dangerous than all the previous ones we have faced. We are facing a challenge—when I say it is more dangerous, I mean it. In 1947 when the land of Palestine was partitioned, the millions who came during that period came to Palestine. Now, millions are coming—I am talking about the millions of Jews who are coming from the Soviet Union and the Jews who came earlier from Eastern Europe and some other countries. I include the statements of Ethiopian officials about allowing the emigration of the Falasha Jews via direct charter flights to Palestine.

Through a simple and quick mathematical operation we find that this year, for instance, it is expected that 240,000 will come from the Soviet Union, 30,000 from other socialist countries, and 20,000 Falashas, leaving 300,00. [sentence as heard]. This means that by the end of the century there will be 3 million new Jewish immigrants who cannot be accommodated in the land of Palestine. Neither the West Bank nor Gaza can accommodate them. Gaza, Your Majesty, is 240 square kilometers. They have confiscated 140 square kilometers for their settlements, which means that 201 [as heard] square kilometers are left; 800,000 individuals live in the 200 square kilometers. It is the are with the highest concentration of human beings in the world. As for the West Bank—what can it absorb? These millions are for Greater Israel. Your majesty, this is not a phrase that I cite from tradition. It is also not a simile.

Your majesty, allow me to present to you some of these documents. This is a new coin, your majesty, which is the Israeli 10 agora. Last year they stamped on its face the Israeli menorah, directly under which there is the map of Greater Israel. This has attracted our attention, especially since talk about Greater Israel had commenced with the establishment of Israel, when they put a sign on the entrance of the Israeli Knesset that said: This is your land Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates This sign remained for 10 years. They were advised then to remove it, but now they have put it back up. They have returned to it following the agreement of the two giants in Malta. One of them is providing human beings and the other is providing money and weaponry. This happened, your majesty.

I have managed to get this map from the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee [AIPAC], which is the Israeli lobby in the United States. This map was published in the GEO-JOURNAL [preceding name in English] of 19 February 1989, page 109; the map is the same as on the 10-agora note magnified. It includes all of Lebanon, all of Jordan, two-thirds of Syria, two-thirds of Iraq, and one-third of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as far as Medina and Khaybar and Sinai.

This is Greater Israel, which was mentioned by Baker during one of his meetings with them. In one of his statements, he said that Israel should forget this map as well as any desire to expand to establish Greater Israel. But what is taking place on the ground is for Greater Israel. Israel already has 3.5 million inhabitants. If it brings in another 3 million immigrants, there will be 7-8 million inhabitants in the next 10 years. Despite scientific progress and advanced weapons, for example, they talk about Iraq. They have bacteriological and chemical bombs. They are using helicopters against the intifadah and our people of the intifadah. They use chemical weapons and throw them from helicopters or shoot them from rifles. American and Belgian medical teams took samples of these bombs and tested them in the United States and Belgium. They then held individual news conferences and announced that these bombs are not [words indistinct] but chemical bombs, which are prohibited by international charters. These bombs caused 6,200 miscarriages and paralyzed children who were under a year old.

Moreover, they have bacteriological bombs and 220-250 nuclear warheads. This means that 10 nuclear bombs are allocated for each Arab capital. Sharon has not and will not conceal these. He was a government minister. He does not conceal his desire to occupy Jordan because Jordan, in his view, should absorb Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and should become a second homeland or an alternative homeland, which Sharon is talking about. He also says the same about southern Lebanon [words indistinct], which was called Fatah land. Now, there are Falasha settlements in the al-'Arqub area.

When I talk about Jerusalem, I mean holy Jerusalem. I do not mean the suburbs of Jerusalem, which they built afterward and called the capital of Israel. I am talking about Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine. Most immigrants have settled in the old Jerusalem area, holy Jerusalem, to change the demographic nature of this holy city. I discussed this matter with the officials I met during my recent 72-hour stay in France and Italy. They want to change the demographic nature of holy Jerusalem, old Jerusalem. They blow up many sites and carry out excavations. You know that they laid a cornerstone for their temple several months ago. They also laid a cornerstone for the Temple of Solomon. Pictures of this temple and the people who laid the cornerstone circulated in the United States and all over the world. They believe that the site was that of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the blessed Dome of the Rock.

Moreover, the settlement process has begun near the Hebron and Nabulus areas, near Salfit, and near the Tulkarm area. Thus, the settlement process covers all of Palestine. In light of this, should we sit back with folded arms as an Islamic nation and as an Arab nation? It is true that the challenge began against our Arab nation is, at the same time, against the Islamic nation. This is the al-Aqsa Mosque. This is the place from which Prophet Muhammad ascended to the throne.

The situation is becoming more serious. There should be moves and action rather than words and statements. We are launching a unilateral move, but unilateral moves will not work with the Soviet Union. They talk about human rights. These rights should end when others' rights begin. They are talking about the individual's rights to emigrate. It is not an emigration. It is a transfer. It is transportation from one place to another by plane. The emigrant's Soviet, CSSR, or Polish passport is withdrawn and he is given a travel passport valid only for three months. Is this human rights? It is not. If it is a matter of the right to emigrate, the emigrant's passport should not be withdrawn just because he wants to travel.

The least one can say about this is that it is racial discrimination, because the passports are taken away from the emigrees. I want to use their own logic: They talk about human rights. But how come the passport and the nationality are withdrawn, and the policy of transfer [preceding word in English] is practiced? This is not emigration, but forceful deportation to a certain place. Why are they not given the right to choose the place? It has been proved that when there were transit stations in Vienna and Rome, 90 percent of the emigrees in Vienna did not go to Israel and 92 percent in Rome did not go to Israel. This is according to official Israeli statistics. Those who follow developments know that the remaining Jewish emigrants are now demonstrating in front of the American Embassy in Rome demanding entry visas to the United States.

What is strange, Your Majesty, is that while the U.S. Administration closed its doors to the Israelis, it is now, all of a sudden, giving five-year visas to any Palestinian with a passport, a travel document, or anything else through any U.S. Embassy. They are also reducing travel fares.

Your Majesty, in the past when we needed to send one student to the United States—and my brother the foreign minister knows about this because he experienced these things in detail—we needed three or four [not further specified], bank guarantees, and security clearances. These are no longer required from a Palestinian student. While America closed its doors to the Jews, it is trying to open them to the Palestinians. The issue amounts to a wide-scale conspiracy; the aim is to vacate Palestine of Palestinians by arousing their interest. If not by arousing their interest, then by something different; namely, a forthcoming military round spoken about by Shamir and Sharon, directed firstly against Jordan and south Lebanon. The aim is to deport the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and occupy Jordan. They are talking about returning to the year 1982 in Lebanon. This requires an awakening of our conscience. We thank God we are here in this good country and under the patronage of your majesty, who always cares and struggles for the sake of the Palestinian cause and the holy homeland.

We need constant action. Allow me to make some proposals at the end of the open session. We must follow these proposals because the question is to be or not to be. The strike will not spare anyone. This is a document from the AIPAC and this is another from the Israeli Government. I hope your majesty will keep these documents.

I say that despite this, it is not a coincidence that the Palestinian stone and the blessed intifadah of the people of Palestine, the children of Palestine, are, for the first time, forcing the Israeli Government to resign and undermining the hierarchy—the highest Israeli authority. But we cannot say: Go thou and thy Lord, and fight ye two [part of Koranic verse]; we must say that we are all fighting in defense of our lands and holy places so that there will not come a time for regret. God, I have delivered the message, so be the witness. But I tell you, your majesty, in the name of the Palestinian people, that this intifadah, God willing, will continue wave after wave, no matter how long it takes, until the Israeli occupation is over.

Despite all the difficulty I see, I believe God's promise will come true. God does not dishonor his promise, and the Koranic verse is explicit: to enter your mosque as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. God willing, we will enter the mosque together, your majesty, and pray there, in the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Together until Jerusalem, together until Jerusalem. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Fatah's Official Advocates Armed Struggle

JN0704174490 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with Muhammad Dawud 'Awdah [Abu Dawud], member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and the Palestine National Council by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Karim] What is the state of the Palestinian peace offensive launched by the Algiers congress of the PNC [Palestine National Council] in November 1988?

['Awdah] Assuming it truly is a peace offensive, I think the runup to the 1988 Algiers congress provided its background. When we began to forget the Zionist mentality and their strategy of invading our land and the philosphy underlying their invasion and since we forgot the Zionist design on our Palestinian and Arab territory, we began to delude ourselves that peace between them and us was possible. The Zionist movement was based on the acquistion of land and control of Arab territory using force of arms. The Zionist mentality is therefore always going to resort to armed force. I see no point in peace moves. Those who initiated the peace initiative are even more aware of this fact.

Our extremely moderate proposals of November 1988 have met with increased intransigence and arrogance on the part of the Zionists. Look at Shamir saying massive immigration needs a larger Israel. In other words, they still believe that expansion is their only option, that the Arabs will have to be subdued, and that not only Palestinian but also Arab land should come under their control—whether through brute force or their economic dominance. They want us as slaves and markets for their industry. Frankly speaking, I see no point in the so-called peace offensive. I think that we have to revert to Fatah's fundamental ideals that advocate armed struggle as the one path to the liberation of Palestine.

['Abd-al-Karim] How do you react to the claim that the current peace process was planned by the Palestinian leadership, Fatah in particular, as far back as 1968?

['Awdah] If some have taken the liberty of seeing positive points in the present peace offensive, they would be quite wrong to claim that the Palestinian leaders have, since 1968, worked to bring us to the present weak position whereby conceding certain gains will win us anything. I do not think anyone would have dared advocate such a strategy. I am confident that whoever picked up a gun intended to achieve the goals to which we had pledged ourselves—the liberation of the Palestine in its entirety and the establishment of our state through armed struggle, the only route to liberation.

I also think that such trends are to be denounced regardless of who advocates them or their positions. I just fail to see the sense in some people's conception of a federation composed of Arab states adjacent to our occupied territory and the Zionist entity. I wonder how any Arab Palestinian who knows what Zionism is about can come up with such a scenario. I fail to understand how some people take the liberty of saying that an agreement is possible and that our territory can be parceled out as if it were a tray of candy.

I also find utterances by some [Palestinian] leaders that Jerusalem is subject for bargaining to be repugnant. For us, Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and I cannot see us relinquishing an inch of it. How can we negotiate over Jerusalem? Whatever do they mean when they say that we will act as a bridge betwen Israel and the Arabs? Israel is an irredentist entity, and for us to accept such a role means to help it expand further afield. Such an expansion may initially take an economic form. History abounds with such lessons.

The aim of all these proposals is to satisfy the Americans and the Zionists. However, I say with complete clarity and with all due respect to all those who personally made this proposal, that the proposal transcends logic and national principles because it gives the enemy the opportunity to increase its arrogance and extremism. I believe there is one proposal only. We have proposed a peace initiative, which received a boastful and arrogant response from the Zionist entity. We have to review all our proposals. We must return to our roots and origins. We must realize that the enemy cannot offer us anything unless it is beaten and its will destroyed.

['Abd-al-Karim] In your opinion, what is the effect of such proposals on the intifadah?

['Awdah] I believe the intifadah is the will of the people. When those people rebelled, they saw that there was only one way of removing the occupation, namely, to resist. There are different types of resistance; it could start with protests; it could start with a leaflet; or it could start with a strike.

Our people have invented another type of resistance, which is the stone—the holy stone with which our youth carry and resist the Zionist tanks and arrogant soldiers. The intifadah has set the example not only to the Arabs, but to many oppressed groups in the world. I believe that the intifadah will not be affected by all attempts to abort it, whether these attempts are at the hands of the Zionists who are trying to thwart it day after day, or through a type of desperation or demoralization whose winds blow from here and there every now and then.

The intifadah has now become a way of life for our people. However, we do not say that the intifadah will remove the occupation. The intifadah alone can never remove the occupation. The role of the intifadah is to crush the colonialist occupation of our occupied lands from the inside. We have to strengthen the attack and blows from all sides. We should not believe that there are limits to protecting our land from the Zionist presence.

I believe that all the Arab fronts surrounding our occupied land are fronts open to us, whether they like it or not, and whether they want it or not. We, as a revolutionary Palestinian movement and Palestinian people, must not be hindered by the fact that there are guards protecting our enemy and we must not allow these guards to play their roles. If an Arab country has a two-kilometer border, we must exploit this two-kilometer border with our Palestinian territory and carry out our armed struggle across it. I hope we will give the intifadah greater support and provide it with more of the basics of life. I also see with great pain that our Arab brothers, and here I mean Arab officials, have not given the intifadah its due. Nor have our Arab masses given the intifadah what it deserves.

Here, I call on the Arab masses—and they are the ones I am addressing and no one else—to help the intifadah. I also call on Muslims everywhere to consider the intifadah a nucleus for liberating the al-Aqsa Mosque. They also must rush to our aid, because Palestine is not for the Palestinians alone. It is a land for the Palestinians as well as the Arabs. It is also a land for all Muslims. After all, holy Jerusalem is there.

['Abd-al-Karim] As you are well aware, the issue preoccupying people these days is that of Soviet Jewish immigration. People say that this immigration is the Arabs' dividend from international detente. What is the impact of this immigration on the Palestine question? And how do you view Arab and Palestinian reactions to this issue? And further, what is the best possible response to this immigration?

['Awdah] [passage omitted] Our position is weaker, despite the fact that we have more powerful capabilities. I believe that immigration is a danger threatening the region. I also believe that it will cause a catastrophe in our Arab region. For every immigrant arriving in the occupied territories, a resident of these territories will be expelled. Who is the one expelled? He is an Arab. Therefore, the expulsion of the residents of the occupied territories becomes a must. The expulsion of Arabs is a clear-cut and premeditated plan. In addition, the use of Jordan as an alternative homeland to implement this expulsion scheme is also an unmistakably clear-cut and well-known scheme. But where is the response? Where is the Arab response? I believe that the Arabs, and I am referring here to Arab officials, are too weak to make a proper response to the United States on this issue. I do not know why this is. No, I do not know why this is, despite the fact that we are able to make a proper response. In this regard, it suffices to think about Arab funds kept in U.S. banks. These funds can be withdrawn, or at least a threat to withdraw them can be made.

What the future holds for us will be more tragic than everything that has befallen us. In brief, we can say that the Israelis are currently thinking of establishing an alternative homeland in Jordan; that is, abolishing the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and settling hundreds of thousands of Palestinians east of the River Jordan. They are pushing us into the desert, saying that we dreamt of throwing them into the sea. This requires the Arabs to adopt a firmer, clearer, and more hardline stand. I believe that we in the PLO must begin to lay new foundations for advocating such a stand. I believe, therefore, that the ideal response is that the Arabs take a clear position against all those who are directing Jews toward Palestine, against all those who are providing them with transit stations, and also against all those who are financing and supporting this immigration, whether through the provision of funds, facilities, or by any other means. I believe that the Arabs must impose an economic boycott against those who facilitiate the immigration; that is if they are incapable of taking more radical measures. I am asking them to do the least that could be asked of them. I also believe that the ideal response would create a situation where all those who set foot on our Palestinian soil would place their hands on their heads, simply because it is impermissible to see them occupy the lands of others and at the same time feel safe. Immigrants must lose their sense of security. This is the most important element in any response to this challenge. I do not want to say anything more about this.

Hurani Criticizes State Department Position

JN0904172890 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
8 Apr 90 p 14

[Text] Tunis, AL-BAYAN—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has denounced the position declared by the U.S. State Department's spokesman who said that former President Carter, who met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Paris recently, was not an envoy of the Bush administration. Hurani said that this hasty position confirms that the Bush administration considers itself a party to the conflict. This, he said, means it cannot play the mediator's role it tries to suggest, and reveals the United States' hostility toward the PLO.

Hurani said he believes Carter's actions have upset the White House because he said that the PLO was the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and that President 'Arafat and the PLO had done all they could to facilitate the peace process in the region—which means that Carter laid the blame on Israel.

Asked about the advantage of PLO support for Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres in forming an Israeli government—a support declared by 'Arafat in Paris—Hurani replied that when dealing with the Israeli reality, the PLO does not support one party against the other, but endeavors to influence the various forces within Israeli public opinion to strengthen the trend toward peace and toward realistic dealings with the PLO and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

Radio Criticizes U.S. 'Twisted Logic' in Region

JN0804093290 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1844 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "This twisted logic will not be useful; rather, it will exacerbate the situation in the region"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation: Since the beginning of this year, 1990, until now, Israeli warplanes have launched eight air raids against our Palestinian people's positions and camps in southern Lebanon. The latest was the savage air raid against al-Rashidiyah camp that was carried out with U.S.-made F-16's and U.S.-made bombs, which fell on our unarmed civilian population and tore the bodies of our young children apart.

Those savage Zionist air raids are only another facet of the dark, hideous Zionist terrorism, which the spiteful cursed Zionist enemy practices against our people all over the homeland, in Gaza and Nabulus, in Rafah and Tulkarm, and in the other towns, villages, and camps in the heroic West Bank and valiant Gaza Strip.

What is the reaction to this dark terrorism practiced by the Zionist entity? What is the American's reaction to all this; of those in the Administration headed by George Bush, or in other U.S. institutions? Quite unfortunately, the reaction to all this Zionist terrorism is more U.S. bias in favor of Israel and further U.S. support for Israel's aggressive plots in settlement activities and so on. All we heard from the U.S. Congress was its approval to offer millions of dollars to Israel to help it absorb and settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants. All we heard from Congress were resolutions calling Jerusalem the united capital of Israel. All we heard from James Baker, who made the five proposals which became known as Baker's points, was support for the Israeli obsession to settle the Jews in Jerusalem. And, finally, all we heard from U.S. President George Bush were new promises to Israel and the Jews of the Soviet Union when he told them: We will not forget you, and we will endeavor to transport you via direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv.

On the other hand, the U.S. media and propaganda organs, as well as members of the U.S. Administration, continue to direct accusations against the Palestinians and continue their provocations against the Arab nation, particularly against Iraq.

This is the twisted logic which the United States continues to follow. It supports Jewish human rights, but opposes human rights for Palestinians. It supports Israeli nuclear weapons, but opposes Iraqi chemical weapons. It supports Zionist bullets fired at Palestinian chests, but opposes Palestinian stones hurled at Zionists.

We say: This is a twisted logic, which the United States of America continues to follow in a flagrant and clear fashion without any shame and which we can call "the arrogance of power" logic. However, this twisted logic will, in the end, lead to disaster, which will strike against the Zionist presence in this region because Israel cannot live forever under the canopy of U.S. arrogance of power and the protection provided by this twisted U.S. logic.

PLO Factions in Jordan Discuss Reshaping PNC

JN0804130890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Representatives of Palestinian factions under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Saturday [7 April] held a preparatory meeting here to establish a new basis for reshaping the Palestine National Council [PNC]—the Palestinian parliament in exile.

The meeting, chaired by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, discussed several proposals and recommendations that would be later referred to the PLO Executive Committee and the respective leadership of Palestinian factions, and to PNC secretariat for their endorsement. The PNC has 452 members in addition to 186 members inside the occupied territories. The meeting was attended by PLO Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan (Fatah), Saji Salamah (the Democratic Front), Muhammad Maslamah (the Popular Front), Badi' Abu-al-Jabin (Arab Liberation Front), Abd-al-Rahman 'Awdallah (the Communist Party), Subhi Gawshah (the Popular Struggle Front), representatives of Hamas, the Palestine Liberation Front and several independents.

Al-Najjab Urges Arab Coordination for Conference

JN0904132990 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Apr 90 p 14

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab yesterday affirmed that the Palestinian leadership refuses to return to the whirlpool of contacts regarding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo and rejects U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. He added that any pressure on the PLO to return to this issue is a waste of time and only serves extremist forces in the Zionist entity. Al-Najjab added that the PLO leadership will move on the Arab and international levels to return the political march to the path of preparing for an international peace conference, implementing the Casablanca summit resolutions, and carrying out political coordination among the five Arab countries concerned with the international conference; namely: Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

The Palestinian official expressed his conviction that experiments have proven the failure of separate Arab efforts in putting pressure on the United States and Israel toward accepting the convening of an international peace conference. He added that there is no longer any justification for the waiting by some Arab capitals which is aimed at providing a chance for the Baker plan. It has been proven that unilateral American efforts are useless and cannot be an alternative to international efforts. According to al-Najjab, therefore, there must be a clear and effective Arab move toward convening an international conference to find a just and comprehensive settlement.

Regarding the visits to Paris and Rome by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and his meetings with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and French President Francois Mitterrand, the Palestinian official affirmed the PLO's adherence to the peace initiative endorsed by the Palestine National Council in 1988 and the need for mobilizing all forces to prepare for the convening of the international conference—the only real way to reach a comprehensive and just settlement.

Commenting indirectly on 'Arafat's statement that he is ready to meet with Israeli Prime Minister-designate

Shim'on Peres, al-Najjab called on the Israeli Labor Party leader to relinquish the Shamir plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territory. Al- Najjab noted that Shim'on Peres still disregards the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, rejects Israeli withdrawal from the territory occupied in 1967, refuses to recognize the PLO, and evades the convening of the international conference. This strengthens the Palestinian conviction that a subsequent plan prepared by the future Israeli prime minister will also aim at further procrastination.

The Palestinian leader welcomed the European role based on the Madrid Declaration and called for promoting coordination between the PLO and Western Europe, the USSR, and China. He added that new horizons will be opened before this coordination that has become more necessary and urgent than ever before, particularly with the increasing dangers that would result from any new military adventure by Israel, the consequences of which cannot be predicted in either the Middle East or even in Europe and the USSR.

Al-Najjab touched on the recent moves by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in some regional states. Al-Najjab expressed his conviction that Carter's acceptance of the importance of the international conference—although he is no longer in office—is interesting because he is the real architect of the Camp David accords. This constitutes recognition that separate solutions are incomplete solutions, and is precious advice to those who search for a settlement outside the international conference to stop making further efforts, al-Najjab said.

Resistance Movement Asked To Join Intifadah

JN0804075090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Several areas in the occupied territory witnessed violent clashes on the 29th month of the intifadah. On this occasion, George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, issued a statement in Damascus appealing to the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, to join the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah to unify national efforts, confront the common enemy, and begin a new phase in the offensive of the intifadah.

In a similar message, Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, asserted that unity comes before anything else and all must unite within the Unified National Leadership, including Hamas, to which we appeal again that it joins the Unified National Leadership, as the Hawatimah message put it.

Hamas Wants 'Retreat' From Algerian Resolutions

JN0804161990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Apr 90 pp 24, 17

[Text] Amman—Contacts to discuss the membership of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the Palestine National Council [PNC] have reached a dead end. The contacts took place between the PNC Secretariat and Hamas representatives to the meetings of the preparatory committee for restructuring the PNC. Hamas said it would not take part in the PNC unless certain conditions were met. These were included in a lengthy memorandum handed to the PNC speaker, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, yesterday.

In its memorandum, Hamas called for retreat from the resolutions adopted by the PNC session in Algiers and from a peaceful settlement. It also called for a review of the Palestine National Charter to make it correspond with Islamic beliefs, which would mean doing away with secularism. Furthermore, it called for the election of PNC members, who represent Palestinian factions and independents, whenever possible. If this is not possible, the members chosen must be approved by all Palestinian factions.

Hamas also asked for a reduction in the number of PNC members for administrative, financial, and security considerations. It also asked for at least 40 percent of the PNC seats to correspond to its real size in the Palestinian arena.

His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC speaker, commented: I have indeed received a memorandum from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. I will brief the preparatory committee on its content.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR over the phone, al-Sa'ih said that what is important is to bring about an Arab and Islamic position in support of their rights in Palestine. His eminence went on to say: We appreciate Hamas' readiness to work with all Palestinian organizations and forces to help deter Zionist aggression and protect Palestine, the homeland of our forefathers, from harm.

He said that the memorandum was positive, not negative, because no Palestinian party can concede an inch of Palestine which can be liberated from Zionist occupation. He also said that Israel's existence is null and void, and that the situation requires power to regain Palestinian rights and unity to face the Zionist enemy.

His eminence pointed out that the committee to restructure the PNC, which is comprised of 20 members representing Palestinian organizations and factions, began its meetings at the Jerusalem Hotel, to discuss the basis for choosing new members to the PNC, yesterday. The members, he said, will be directly elected or appointed according to circumstances.

It is worth mentioning that the committee was formed in the Iraqi capital in 1988 and held its most recent meeting in Tunis in March 1990. The current PNC, which was formed in 1976, has 452 members.

Algeria

Ghazali Assails Israel, Anti-Iraq 'Campaign'

LD1104075790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] On the biased information campaign aimed at Iraq, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, minister of foreign affairs, made the following statement to ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE:

The biased and hostile campaign aroused against Iraq, through which Israel is attempting to hit the Arab nation and its possessions, contrasts with complete silence on the arsenal of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons which Israel possesses and which are aimed at the Arab and Islamic peoples alike. Such methods do not serve the desired peace in the Middle East. However, these methods will make the situation more tense and complex, will put international peace and security at risk, and will obstruct the good offices aimed at reaching comprehensive and just solutions and the complete elimination of the causes of tension.

Mr. Ghazali added: While expressing its solidarity with fraternal Iraq—which has not done anything contradictory to international law and convention but has only practiced its internationally recognized right to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and stability and worked for advancing its comprehensive development to extricate itself from underdevelopment—Algeria condemns these information campaigns and threats and calls for reflection, self-restraint, and contributions to building just peace in this region instead of aggressive threats and elimination of security and stability.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Jewish Immigration

NC1004174890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt does not oppose the emigration of Jews from the USSR but does oppose having this emigration take place at the expense of the Palestinian people through the settlement of the emigrants in the occupied Arab territories. He said that the Palestinian people's human rights must be taken into account just like those of the Israelis.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Jewish immigrants to Israel must live in peace and not in a state of tension or conflict with their Arab neighbors. He added that this cannot happen unless the human rights of the Palestinians are taken into consideration. He explained that this immigration might pose a major threat to the region's security in the future, and for this reason the major powers who are facilitating it must impose controls that will take into account those who have legitimate rights. He noted that the legal status of the occupied territories must not be altered and cited the relevant provisions of international law and the Geneva conventions on the status of occupied territories.

On Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent statements, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said President Saddam's threats were a response to the Israeli threat to attack Iraqi industrial and military installations. He said he believes Iraq enjoys the natural and guaranteed right to self-defense.

In connection with Syria's role in the peace process, he stated that the Syrians have declared that they are willing to negotiate with Israel within an international conference for peace that guarantees the rights of all the parties concerned in the region. He said Syria is a very important country and can play an effective role in the peace process.

On Egypt's stand regarding the efforts to form an Israeli government, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that the Israelis have the right to choose the government which represents them. He said that Egypt is willing to negotiate with any Israeli government that agrees to participate in the peace process. He referred to President Husni Mubarak's frequent assertion that peace is, in the final reckoning, in Israel's interest and that there is no way for Israel to resolve its problems with its regional neighbors except by following the path of peace.

Asked how far Egypt would be affected if some of the aid it gets from the United States were diverted to East Europe, 'Abd-al-Majid said he does not believe that U.S. aid to Egypt will be reduced.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stated that Egypt's relations with the United States are strong and good. He said the fact that the United States assists Eastern European countries does not mean that this will be at the expense of other countries. He declared that Egypt welcomes the changes in Eastern Europe because what has occurred there is a noteworthy phenomenon. He asserted: We believe it is a positive phenomenon that bolsters democratic tendencies in the world.

On Egypt's role in the Arab world, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that Egypt plays a prominent role aimed at serving the Arab nation's interests. He said Egypt calls for peace and has good relations with all the Arab countries. He pointed out that reinstating Cairo as the Arab League's headquarters proves this and demonstrates that Egypt's foreign policy is based on the principles of peace, development, and stability.

Regarding the hostage issue, which is being discussed in various areas of conflict, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt opposes hostage taking because it is inhuman and unacceptable. He concluded by stating that if asked, Egypt is willing to offer its good offices to eliminate this problem and find a solution acceptable to all parties.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak

NC1004121790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan at the presidential office in Helioplis this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo.

Speaking after the meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister said his talks with President Mubarak had been fruitful and cordial. He said he had conveyed to President Mubarak warm greetings of appreciation from the Pakistani prime minister and an invitation to visit Pakistan at a time suitable for him. The president accepted the invitation and promised to visit soon, perhaps before the end of the year or early next year.

The Pakistani minister added that he and President Mubarak discussed regional issues of common interest and the efforts the president and his government have made to find a just solution to the Middle East issue that constructively meets the aspirations of the Arabs and the Palestinians and that leads to a durable peace. He stressed the important role Egypt could play in this respect. He added: We also discussed the regional issues in our region, our problems with India, and the problem of Kashmir. He added: We believe that the Kashmir people must enjoy their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions and the spirit of the right to self-determination that is now being applied in the world. He pointed out the importance of his talks which precede the Islamic Conference Organization's upcoming meeting, which both Egypt and Pakistan will attend.

Departs Cairo 11 Apr

NC1104084990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Cairo this morning after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. The Pakistani minister was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry Protocol Director Sami Thabit.

Chadian Envoy Arrives With Habre Message

NC1104051890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2031 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian minister of information and civic orientation, arrived in Cairo today on an official visit. The Chadian minister said that he is carrying a written message from President Hissein Habre to President Husni Mubarak in the latter's capacity as president of Egypt and chairman of the current session of the OAU. Seif also noted that he will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials. An adviser at the Information Ministry; Ambassador Fathi Yusuf, deputy director of the African desk at the Foreign Ministry, and Abdel Qader Adoum [name as received], Chadian ambassador in Cairo, received the Chadian emissary at the airport.

The Chadian ambassador said that during the visit of several days the Chadian minister will hold talks concerning the problems between Chad and Libya. The ambassador told MENA he hopes that President Mubarak's efforts will lead to a solution to these problems. He pointed out that the situation on the Chad-Libya borders is alarming and that no progress has been made in the talks. The ambassador said that his country is ready to intensify efforts to reach a settlement and avert an escalation of the conflict that will not be in the interest of either side. [passage omitted]

Editorial Demands 'Clarification' of U.S. Policy

JN1004220790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Required Enlightenment"]

[Text] After the rash of explanatory statements that accompanied the processes of negotiation, exchanges of opinion, and queries on the numerous proposals made in the area after contacts between Middle Eastern countries and the United States reached a climax, the current U.S. position now requires a clarification statement.

The Arab side should demand this from the United States, because its firm policies have been shaken recently and have deviated from the general direction they followed during long and exhausting negotiations, in addition to the fact that these policies have been chracterized by a great deal of confusion, ambiguity, and mix up.

For example, Baker's statements calling for the possible settlement of Soviet Jews in east Jerusalem: This came after President Bush had declared he was committed to preventing that, based on the consideration that this area is part of the occupied territories. Then came the call to all the other governments involved in emigration to speed up the travel process and not to yield to "terrorist threats." Is it possible that this whole flood—some estimates set it at hundreds of thousands, if not millions over the coming years—will travel to Israel as it is now, or to an Israel as it should be according to some plans and in some minds?

On the other hand, we see that the U.S. State Department spokesman has strongly expressed Washington's concern over Shamir's announcement of his determination to expand settlements in the occupied territories—of course, to receive the newcomers.

We add to this the decisions by Congress calling on the Bush administration to consider united Jerusalem the capital of Israel, now and forever. Those resolutions showed the whole world that they are against the government's policy and that they were made under pressure from Israel and the Zionist lobby. Then, the same government proceeded to implement a draft to extract a resolution from the United Nations canceling its previous resolution equating Zionism with racism. If we add all this together, we can miss nothing, and can only wonder at the confusion plaguing the U.S. position—a position that was once thought to be firm, and whose "solid" policies have multiplied and are now shot through with confusion and weakness.

Is it a real retreat or is it an application of the famous saying that going back one step makes it possible to go two steps forward? Or is it another instance of distribution of roles? Or is part of it for domestic consumption and another part for foreign consumption? Or is it a play in which there are many masks? Or what is it really?

We need a clarification, or actually many clarifications, just for our education and enlightenment.

Editorial on Arab's 'Passive Response' to Israel

JN1004200290 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "No Room Left For Passive Stands"]

[Text] The Arab nation would do well to exercise caution and vigilance and to prepare for threats or dangers hanging over this or that Arab country. With Middle East tension being whipped up by Israeli leaders' provocative statements, it seems they are planning some dirty action that they think they will get away with.

We have become used to Tel Aviv's surprise and swift attacks against one Arab country or other. Examples are: The bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor; the Lebanon invasion; and the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Tunis. After each of these crimes, Israel was let off scot-free, with the Arab world characteristically contenting itself with denunciations and condemnations, as if it had thus done its bit in supporting whichever Arab country came under Israeli attack.

It is high time the Arab nation changed its passive response to Israeli aggressions and that the Arabs prepared themselves to deal collectively with any Israeli aggression against Arab territory, with each Arab country contributing the resources at its command—material, military, and economic—so Tel Aviv rulers get the message that they can not get away with their crimes for ever.

We are no warmongers and never were. We have always been victims of Israeli aggression. However, we must confront any aggression with commensurate force, as, it is the only thing some people seem to respect.

Libya

France is 'Grateful' for Release of Hostages

LD1004120290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, 10 al-Tayr [April] (JANA)—In response to the appeal by the brother leader of the revolution to Muslims all over the world in his capacity as the leader of the international Islamic people's leadership to release detained hostages and prisoners of conscience on the advent of the holy month of Ramadam in which he particularly mentioned the French hostage Jacqueline Valente and her family, Valente was released today in Beirut with her family and handed over to the French Embassy in Beirut.

The French Foreign Ministry issued a statement on this occasion in which it stressed that the release of the hostage Jacqueline Valente and her family is a result of the appeal by the brother leader of the revolution on 4 April. The statement said that the French foreign minister expresses his satisfaction and the gratitude of the French Government and people for this world humanitarian initiative.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas stressed in a statement today that France is officially grateful to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for his humanitarian initiative concerning the release of French hostage Jacqueline Valente. The French minister said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi's initiative is a noble and precious gesture whose value will be fully appreciated in future French-Libyan relations.

Europe One radio said in a comment on the release of the French hostage that Col. al-Qadhdhafi's appeal published on 4 April in AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT for the release of hostages and prisoners was the main reason behind the release of Jacqueline Valente.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Release of Prisoners in West

LD1004145190 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 10, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has expressed his appreciation to Al-Fatih Movement-The Revolutionary Council, for responding to the call he made on 4th instant [4 April] to release the hostages. In comments he made today to JANA, the leader of the revolution has said that Al-Fatih Movement-The Revolutionary Council has proved its humanity being a struggling organization defending a sacred cause adding that it is distancing itself from the charge of terrorism in a rapid manner hoping to jettison fully anything pertaining to terrorism to assume its status in the Palestine Liberation Organization as a struggling organization for a sacred cause [word indistinct] the cause of the Palestinian Arab people.

He adds in his comments that there are prisoners and detained people from the Middle East and Arab countries jailed in some prisons in European countries and in the U.S. for political reasons. I hope that they may be released, too.

'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 10 Apr for Visit

LD1004232190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received tonight Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. The Palestinian president arrived this evening in Tripoli for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Neswpaper Interviews Al-Bashir in Khartoum

JN0904212890 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Apr 90 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Ahmad Hanaqah; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hanaqah] What is the latest on the Egyptian-Zairian mediation to stop the war in the south?

[al-Bashir] The efforts are continuing, and we accept and thank every endeavor by the brothers to bring about a just and dignified peace. Peace in the south reflects positively not only on Egypt or Zaire, but also on all neighboring Arab and African countries. If we consider that our country has borders with eight countries, we realize that mediation is natural and must continue in order to bring stability not only to Sudan but also to the entire region. The forces plotting against us and having ambitions over our country are the same forces seeking to serve their own interests in fraternal neighboring countries. We pursued a balanced and rational foreign policy, which resulted in this kind of mediation. The mediation also reflects the concern and priority the leaders of these countries give to Sudanese issues, and we find this natural in view of the importance of our strategic location in the region and of local and international developments.

[Hanaqah] How strong is Arab support for a peaceful solution? And how do you evaluate Arab military support?

[al-Bashir] The support is very strong. The Arabs support peace in Sudan because the imposed war targets the Arab-Islamic identity. We have always warned against Zionist infiltration in the African Continent and the Red Sea, which Sudan tries to maintain as a peaceful Arab sea. Arab cooperation with Sudan is old and historical; it stems from a common fate, not a passing interest. Arab support for Sudan, when provided, cannot be considered but as part of the common Arab interests. The bonds between Sudan and Arabs and Muslims are bonds of a common destiny and struggle for the sake of right and the rightful message; struggle for a world in which we, our holy places, thought, cultural identity, and existence as a nation—which has a renewed role until judgment day—live free of subordination and degradation. Arab integration, support, and cooperation with Sudan stem from a common existence that has historical enemies; they will not retract their hostility toward us, and we will not budge from our positions, and all of us will pay the price in war and in peace.

[Hanaqah] Do you think the United States still considers Sudan a friendly country? What does the United States think of your government?

[al-Bashir] I think the United States is the one to answer the question. I guess that relations are normal, and the United States continues to cooperate with Sudan. I do not think the United States thinks badly of the Sudanese people. The relationship between Sudan and the United States is the relationship between a small nation and a big power, but we make whatever decisions and adopt whatever positions we like, and the United States has its own views and assessments. It is a reciprocal treatment in accordance with international law. In my opinion, relations are normal, and there is nothing new I can tell you about.

[Hanaqah] Do you believe that Sudan's Arab and Islamic course conflicts with cooperation with the European countries? Could cooperation with the U.S. forces resume as well as the "Bright Star" maneuvers?

[al-Bashir] The opposite is true, particularly if we realize that this cooperation is based on mutual respect and national sovereignty for every country. It is different with respect to cooperation with the U.S. forces. We must also view this cooperation within the framework of mutual respect and national sovereignty. Every country has its own policy and programs concerning cooperation with other countries in the world which it formulates in accordance with the circumstances of the stage. This applies to the method of dealing between our government and the U.S. Administration which seeks to achieve the interests of each one.

[Hanaqah] Why has the United States closed down its cultural center in Khartoum?

[al-Bashir] That is its own affair. However, the information I have says that the center is still open but has cut down on some services it offers as part of the budget squeeze that has affected all the U.S. Administration's facilities within and outside the United States.

[Hanaqah] Do you believe the United States can play some role in the interest of the Sudanese Government as a result of the support the Cuban and Ethiopian regimes provide the rebels?

[al-Bashir] The United States has done much in the person of former President Carter and his mediation during the Nairobi negotiations, as well as the cease-fire plan in southern Sudan proposed by Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary for African affairs. I cannot say that their stances were in the interest of the government, or the result of any relations the rebel movement may have had. We dealt with all initiatives as a neutral party and abided by our principled stand. These initiatives are being studied and scrutinized and we hope they will benefit the search for peace which is the dream of all the Sudanese in the north and in the south. This is to stop the roar of guns in the grasslands and forests so that we may be able to cultivate the land in southern Sudan for the benefit of all Sudan, the Arab region, and the African continent. U.S. initiatives as well as all other initiatives are a natural thing within the framework of the search to halt the fighting, given that it is also a humanitarian issue. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] Have the negotiations you held with them in Addis Ababa and Nairobi made some progress?

[al-Bashir] Yes, some progress was achieved. The fact that negotiations were held is a positive factor. One of the most important steps taken was that of defining a channel for communications between the two sides without any third parties. We do not need a third party because we understand one another. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] The peace dialogue conference has came out with the federation program. Is there a need to convene the constitutional conference which the rebel movement demands to agree on the future form of government? What will be the mission of this new conference?

[al-Bashir] The constitutional conference, which the rebel movement clings to, is only an excuse to justify the postponement of a peaceful solution. The movement has shrouded it with clouds so that no one will realize the purpose behind it or its real objectives. The dialogue conference was attended by all intellectual and political leaders in Sudan and came out with recommendations and proposals; the movement has no option but to recognize their seriousness. We have invited them to attend and raise whatever issues they want. Their views were represented and adopted by certain people inside the conference. The government has approved the conference's recommendations and made them into a program for peace. Federation was one of the recommendations which resolved many of the disputed issues over the form of government. If the rebel movement seeks a constitutional conference, then we are ready for this provided there are no preconditions. If the rebel movement is ready to abandon its intransigence and imposed conditions, then we are ready. This is because we want to cut short the way toward a noble goal for the homeland and for every Sudanese citizen—peace. We do not have time to waste on trivial things or differing labels. We desire a constitutional conference that has clear features and objectives if this will lead to permanent, not temporary, peace and to strong reconciliation and cohesion among all Sudanese people.

[Hanaqah] Let us talk about the democratic dimension. The government is now in the phase of revolution after it passed the phase of the coup d'etat which brought you to government. What hopes do you pin on the growth and continuation of the efforts to popularize the government in the future?

[al-Bashir] Since the first day of the revolution, we declared that we did not take power for the sake of taking power but for the sake of salvation. We are committed to do anything that will contribute toward this salvation, including handing power over to the masses and expanding the base for popular participation in decisionmaking. We have already began to set up the popular committees for salvation and the popular committees for supervision and services. Rapid steps are being taken to implant the federation system which will provide for wider participation in government and in political and administrative decisionmaking.

[Hanaqah] How do you assess the future of Arab support for Sudan following your overtures to the private sector to provide investment and capital?

[al-Bashir] We hope Arab support will be demonstrated through joint investments among us and other fraternal Arab states, or through individual Arab investment. We also hope that Arab investors in the private sector will realize Sudan's great potential and the new investment climate. The Arab brothers have themselves taken part in formulating the new investment law by discussing it and commenting on it during a recent conference held by Arab and foreign investors in Khartoum. The results of the conference were very encouraging, indeed, and we hope we will be able to achieve our objectives. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] Will Egyptian-Sudanese coordination in the field of agriculture and in irrigation and trade projects be your alternative to Numayri's integration?

[al-Bashir] Coordination between us and sisterly Egypt is greater than all political names. It is continuing and growing, especially in the areas you mentioned. It is a coordination which began with the existence of the two countries in this Nile-linked geographic zone. Agriculture and trade were based on the Nile, the source of irrigation. It is not true to say that integration with Libya is at the expense of Egypt because we and Egypt are inseparable twins. Sudan emphasizes rejuvenating old bonds. We also stress that the collective defense pact with Egypt, which was signed in 1976, is still valid.

[Hanaqah] And relations with Libya?

[al-Bashir] The nature of the relationship with Libya has greatly changed. We signed a bilateral integration charter with a view to full future unity. This charter underlines and complements all our previous agreements with

Libya. The integrative relationship will assume its popular dimension after its endorsement by the Sudanese popular forces conference and the Libyan General People's Congress. Integration is being met with tremendous popular enthusiasm and it is part of the Arab masses' aspiration for comprehensive unity from the Ocean to the Gulf. This integration is the nucleus of this unity, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] Will you allow al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to engage in politics, and if so in what capacity?

[al-Bashir] Before his release, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi pledged full cooperation. He can participate in his capacity as a Sudanese citizen. In dealing with politicians and others, the revolution acts according to the method of clemency and gives a good example on patience and tolerance. These are the characteristics of the leadership. Despite the recent coup attempt that some members of his party were involved in, we welcome the release of all former leaders and cadres.

[Hanaqah] What about the coup attempt?

[al-Bashir] It was an attempt into which some weak-willed military men were lured. Twenty officers are now being interrogated and we will release those found innocent. Despite all this, I announced that we are seeking to end the phenomenon of detention in our political life. We want the government to comprise all the Sudanese forces so that there will be no opponents but supporters. We seek Sudanese unity under the canopy of the homeland, for whose bright and prosperous future we are working by all means. In this regard, overlooking and pardoning should be exercised whenever possible provided that there is complete cooperation and sincerity so that we can create an atmosphere of confidence and national unity. We want everyone to play an honorable national role for Sudan.

[Hanaqah] And what about Hasan al-Turabi, al-Mirghani, Nuqud, and others?

[al-Bashir] What applies to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi applies to all others. We allowed al-Mirghani to travel abroad for medical treatment and we released al-Turabi. We are acting within the framework of ethics and Sudanese ideals, which are based on peaceful coexistence, forgiveness, and tolerance. In my opinion, they will work with us and behave within this good and splendid inherited Sudanese framework. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] You have previously announced that the year 1990 will be the year in which the federal system will be applied. Has the gradual application of this system started?

[al-Bashir] Preparations are under way. We are studying the popular bases for the application of the federal system. Seminars were held on the sidelines of the peace conference to discuss the method of application. We are still discussing the best ways for the success of the federal system on Sudanese bases and according to a national concept pertaining to us and our circumstances. A seminar has recently been held to discuss this subject. Efforts are continuing and all this activity may result in applying this system in the second half of this year. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces 'Will Not Falter' Despite Adversity

EA0904213090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has stressed that the Armed Forces have not and will not falter in the face of desperate attempts at arson by (?perpetrators) of conspiracies and motivated rumormongers. His excellency said: What the Armed Forces have done in recent times is evidence of this.

Addressing leaders, officers, and other ranks in Bahri Military Area [northern Khartoum] this morning, Lt. Gen. 'Umar praised the great role the Armed Forces have performed and continue to perform in securing the homeland from its enemies both at home and abroad—in spite of the deliberate neglect of the Armed Forces by the partisan regimes. His excellency stressed that the revolution would continue to wage war on corruption and greed and to eliminate criminals.

Al-Bashir Comments on New Arab Grouping

PM0604134590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Khartoum—Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has stated that his country will be part of a new Arab grouping to be announced soon. In addition to Sudan, he said, the grouping will include Libya, Egypt, and Syria. He said that 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, Libyan command member, is currently preparing the draft plan for the grouping, the idea of which was born at the meeting of the leaders of the four countries in Tubruq, Libya, late last month.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, who was speaking at a limited meeting of the leaders of the Sudanese media and the press union attended by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, denied that Sudan was considering joining the Arab Maghreb Union. He said that he believes in unity and wishes comprehensive Arab unity could be achieved.

He added that integration with Libya is a move to exploit the resources of both countries in the interest of their peoples and that the two governments are in the process of setting up the integration executive organs and choosing the secretary general, who will be Sudanese. The secretariat's headquarters will be in Libya.

On relations with African neighboring states, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that these relations are at their best and that, in a joint statement signed with Sudan, Uganda said it was opposed to any armed resistance from Ugandan territory and would disarm any Sudanese rebel who enters Ugandan territory, and that Sudan would reciprocate.

He said that Kenya is playing a positive part to promote peace in southern Sudan and that his government is satisfied with the Kenyan role. He also spoke of developing relations with Zaire, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. He added that he intends to visit Zambia next week.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that he approves of the mediation undertaken by Egyptian President and Organization of African Unity Chairman Husni Mubarak with the leaders of the Garang movement. He added that the visit to Cairo by some of these leaders last week was made in that context and that he is optimistic about the establishment of peace in the near future now that the movement's leaders have announced in Cairo that they are dropping some of their preconditions for dialogue.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added: Peace will be achieved in Sudan this year and we want it to be an honorable peace with both sides satisfied with its provisions, not peace imposed by one side on the other.

He said that all the Sudanese people should join hands to eliminate the effects of this destructive war.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir spoke about the Sudanese media's role in fighting rumors and presenting facts to the world. He said: We have nothing to hide and we will receive any journalist seeking the truth.

He added: Some foreign radios and news agencies tend to distort facts and play a dishonest part because they rely on rumors and do not try to look for the truth.

Al-Bashir asked the Sudanese media to concentrate on enlightening the public and to face crises without appeasement and to put emphasis on security, national unity, peace, production, and combat of corruption and the black market which directly harm Sudan.

Four Ministers 'Relieved', Replacements Named

EA1004210190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The following ministers have been relieved of their positions:

1. Mr. 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of culture and information;
2. Dr. Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, minister of finance;
3. Mr. Mahjub al-Badawi Muhammad, minister of education;
4. Major General engineer, retired, Muhammad al-Hadi Ma'mun al-Mardi, minister of housing. [passage omitted]

The following have been appointed to the posts cited:

1. Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, minister of culture and information;
2. Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning;
3. Mr. 'Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of education;
4. Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, minister of housing and public works. [passage omitted]

'Umar Al-Bashir Swears In New Officials

EA0904210790 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, Apr 9 (SUNA)—Ahmad Shaykh Idris Manna was yesterday [8 April] sworn in before the Revolution Command Council Chairman General 'Umar al-Bashir as state minister for regions coordination affairs [as received]. Meanwhile, Anthony Ashol was also sworn in before General al-Bashir as deputy governor of Bahr al Ghazal Region. The ceremony was attended by cabinet affairs minister, local government and regions affairs coordinators and the command council legal advisor.

'Ali Sahlul Interviewed on Regional Concerns

PM0604131690 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 1 Apr 90 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul by Yahya Abu-Talib in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Talib] Extensive contacts were held recently to end the southern Sudan problem. What are the prospects of achieving a solution in the light of these contacts, and what do you expect to achieve in the next round of negotiations with the rebels?

[Sahlul] No date has yet been set for that round of negotiations, which will of course be the third, following the Addis Ababa and Nairobi rounds. The prime objective of the negotiations is to find a peaceful solution to the problem in the south. In our view, this solution must be final and radical. This is because the Addis Ababa agreement was concluded in 1972, but failed six years later. Then we entered the stage of military conflict, which is now developing into a war because of some foreign parties's backing for the rebel movement. So we are anxious to end the problem and find a peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Talib] What about current Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Sahlul] The past integration process between Egypt and Sudan will continue—in fact on a larger scale. There are many areas of cooperation between Sudan and Egypt. A number of projects were agreed during President al-Bashir's recent visit to Cairo, especially in the food security field, in order to increase the output of these vital products.

[Abu-Talib] What about the prospects of unity with Libya?

[Sahlul] Unity with Libya is reflected primarily in cooperation between the two countries in various fields. We held extensive consultations with the Libyan brothers and have agreed on a number of projects in the food security field, reconstruction, and banking and the establishment of the Arab-Libyan Bank, endorsed recently by the Sudanese Council of Ministers. Cooperation in the trade, investment, and economic fields actually started some time ago. The agreement has created a framework for existing cooperation, the objective being to achieve unity within four years, that is, when favorable conditions are available under that cooperation. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Talib] Is there a possibility of developing ties of cooperation between Sudan and Ethiopia?

[Sahlul] Our relations with Ethiopia are eternal and we are neighbors. So the leaders of the two countries must always work to contain the problems which occur between the two countries from time to time—within the framework of their peaceful coexistence. For our part, we hope in the future to enhance cooperation with Ethiopia in the economic field in order to benefit both countries in fields such as energy, road construction, and food production.

[Abu-Talib] How would you assess the U.S. decision to stop economic and military aid to Sudan?

[Sahlul] The U.S. decision is attributable to Washington's view of matters, especially in the Horn of Africa region, and the strategy which it is seeking to consolidate in the region.

The Americans have always put pressure on Sudan to push it to the negotiating table. Sudan wants to do this, but it faces Garang's intransigence. We expected the Americans to put similar pressure on the other side, but no such thing happened!

Foreign Minister on U.S. Ties, Peace Initiative

JN0704174690 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, April 7 (GNA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul has underlined that his country's government was currently studying the U.S. initiative on peace in south Sudan.

In an interview with Qatari daily newspaper 'AL-RAYAH' published today, Sahlul explained that details of the initiative would be announced after studies have been completed. He added that contacts were under way for setting a date for a new round of talks between the government and the (south Sudan rebel) movement.

The two sides were convinced that the next round of talks should be fruitful and should deal with major issues, so there would be no haste for its convening until all objective means of its success were completed, Sahlul said.

The Sudanese minister expected that relations between Khartoum and Washington would witness positive progress, noing that some U.S. assistances were still being given to Sudan and were excluded from the U.S. Congress decision halting aid to Sudan.

Sahlul meanwhile said negative statements printed in Sudnese newspapers about the U.S. did not express the government's position.

He emphasised that the Sudanese-Libyan unity would come true after the signing of the integration charter between the two countries within the time limit that has been set, affirming that no Arab state has shown reservations towards the charter.

Sahlul added that Sudan has no intention at present to join any of the Arab groupings because of its African commitments.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Criticism of Iraq

EA0704163890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Apr (SUNA)—Sudan has condemned the wave of criticism and attacks carried by the [word indistinct] Zionist quarters against Iraq for developing its defense and strategic capabilities within the framework of its legitimate right to defend its people and the Arabs. A Foreign Ministry official spokesman said that of late Iraq had been the target of repeated acts of aggression, provocation, and blackmail on the part of Zionist and colonialist quarters. His excellency described the attacks as a desperate attempt aimed at tarnishing Iraq's international reputation and finding an excuse to perpetrate possible aggression. The spokesman lauded the scientific and technical progress made by fraternal Iraq as something of which the entire Arab nation was proud and which would continue serving Arab and friendly peoples by enhancing security and peace.

Council Approves Security Agreement With Uganda

EA0904133690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Apr (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers, chaired by chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, yesterday approved in principle the joint security cooperation agreement between Sudan and Uganda, which was concluded during the recent visit to Kampala by Gen. al-Bashir.

Foreign minister and acting government spokesman 'Ali Sahlul said the pact stipulated the establishment of security points on the Sudanese-Ugandan borders and that each country should not allow its territories to be used for committing hostile actions against the other country.

Sahlul said that the council also approved a bill on the Social Security Act for 1989 which was presented by the labour and social insurance minister. The act covers employees in both the public and private sectors, Sahlul noted.

The new act increased old age pension to three-fourths of the employee's salary from two-thirds of the salary.

Deputy Chairman RCC Sees Iraqi Ambassador

EA0804142390 Khartoum SUNA in French 0915 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Apr (SUNA)—On Saturday Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], met with Tariq Muhammad Yahya, the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan.

During the meeting the two men reviewed the situation in southern Sudan, and Arab and international matters of mutual interest. The meeting also dealt with the hostile campaign (?being waged) by the Americans and the British against Iraq.

Movement Deputy Leader Cited on Four-Point Plan

JN1004125090 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Apr 90 p 7

[Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to AL-MUSAWWAR, Dr. Lam Akol, deputy leader of the "Sudanese rebel movement" and head of the negotiating team sent to Cairo by John Garang, said the movement is ready to immediately resume talks with Khartoum on a peaceful settlement of the problem of southern Sudan. Akol said: The present disagreement with the Khartoum rulers is on the nature of the transitional stage in Sudan, beginning with the cease-fire and ending with the application of the federal government system as proposed by the peace conference held in Khartoum a few months ago.

Akol said Cairo is making sincere efforts to help establish peace in Sudan by searching for points of mutual agreement on the basis of which negotiations with Khartoum can be resumed. He added that President Mubarak is undertaking utmost efforts in this regard out of his conviction that Sudan will not manage to resolve its problems without peace and stability.

The head of the delegation who met with President Mubarak said: Our plan for the transitional stage is summed up in four specific points: 1. Canceling the September laws; 2. Ending the state of emergency; 3. Abrogating the military agreements between Khartoum and Egypt and Libya; 4. Agreeing to hold a nationalist conference for all national forces in Sudan in order to discuss the form of government, the identity of the homeland, and the characteristics of the federal rule.

Akol added: The federal union plan drawn up by the Khartoum conference is a good basis for a discussion of the future government in Sudan, but the plan does not refer to any practical arrangements concerning the nature of the transitional stage, which begins with the cease-fire, despite the importance of these arrangements in creating bridges of mutual confidence with Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Commentary Sees Al-Bashir in 'Apparent Panic'

EA0704165390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] A reliable source close to the staggering islamic fundamentalist junta in Khartoum confided to Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] that the junta's self-proclaimed head, 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, is in great confusion and apparent panic. Frightened by two successive coup attempts within only one week on the one hand, and the hard, hotly felt pinches of national and international isolation on the other, dictator al-Bashir has intensified foreign trips to avoid the highly expected coups and the daily cries of the masses demanding their legitimate rights for food, shelter, medicine, transport, salaries, and freedom.

The Islamic fundamentalist junta led by gangsters caught in the middle of a robbery have embarked on ruthlessness in their confusion to find a route of escape. To tighten his grip on the country, the frightened al-Bashir had to plunge the Sudan into military and racist-motivated integration before achieving the unity of the Sudanese people or giving it any consideration. Our reliable source had this to say of the integration pact, and I quote: Curiosity took me to attend the signing ceremony of the infamous integration pact to assess 'Umar's popularity. I was shocked to witness that those who showed up were the very faces which pushed al-Numayri to chop the limbs of the people; columns of the infamous security organs of the junta, and (?bands) of the so-called Nati Quwwat al-Difa al-Sha'bi—the Popular Defense Forces [PDF].

After the last coup attempt, the junta has now embarked on an unprecedented ruthless crackdown on politicians, trade unionists, and [word indistinct]. The junta fear their friendly forces, the Marahil [tribal militia] and the Anyanya-II, and doubt the remnants of the Mondari [tribal] militia in Juba and (?Khalfiyyah) of southern Blue Nile, because of the Ansar [al-Mahdi supporters] influence and expected fruitful dialogue between the nationalist forces in the country and SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA. So the junta has started to purge those whom they suspect both in the army and in the rank and file of the militia. People like Matib Nhial [acting Anyanya II commander in chief in

1988] in Bentiu area, will have to have himself incorporated into the so-called PDF commanded by National Islamic Front-paid ex-Army officers under the guidance of Brigadier Ba Bikr Abd (?Al-Mahmud), batch 20, and Colonel Kuwah, who has been commissioned to assess the process of incorporating Any

Hence, gangsters like the so-called Muhammad Chuol al-Ahmad [Anyanya-II Politburo member] will have to join the infamous PDF or else will have killed his golden goose, in short, lose his source of income. Muhammad Chuol, the military intelligence-backed, self-taught (?and proclaimed) commander of imaginary forces of Anyanya-II in Upper Nile, is but a preposterous swindler, who has been for long trading in human blood. He goes to Khartoum, cashes money in the name of imaginary thousands of followers—whereas, he has only about 30 farm workers recorded in his (?bargaining list). That is all what he has—only about 30 farm workers, a reliable source emphasized.

Evidently, the junta is out to absorb criminals. Our reliable source explained why the junta sees it important to maintain such criminals in this way, and I quote: There is always a place in human psychology where criminals meet. They fence themselves and when they meet they reciprocally interact. This, I believe, is what unites these criminals to 'Umar, and 'Umar, who had once been in charge of their affairs in Bentiu, Mayom, neduqli, and al-Mujlad, knows their needs and feelings. I tell you, he will flood them with money, although their greed cannot be met. They are terrible. End of quote.

Rebels Say Juba Evacuatees Ambushed by Army

EA0604223690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] After the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] series of warnings to all civilians living in Juba town to move out of the town, about 76 civilians—men, women and children—decided to move out of Juba on 22 March, and go to the SPLA liberated areas. At reaching near Khawr Ramlah, some miles away from Juba, they were ambushed by a Sudanese Army convoy that left Juba for Yei the same day. Fourteen civilians who survived the ambush reported themselves to SPLA forces at Bungu on 24 March, and narrated the ugly incident in which the Army ambushed them. The survivors said the [words indistinct] police were killed. The commander of Bright Star Campaign forces in the area sent a force to the site of the incident. On arrival at the area, the SPLA force found thousands of birds gathered on the dead bodies, making identification difficult. The SPLA force buried 29 bodies and found a two-year old child still alive in the place of the incident. The fate of the rest is still unknown. The survivors said they are from Pajulu, Kakwa, and Kuku tribes. All citizens leaving Juba for the liberated areas are hereby asked to contact Bin Hajar inside Juba town to direct them to where SPLA forces around Juba will secure their route out.

'Diplomatic Source' on Mutiny Against Garang

EA1004174290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 April (SUNA)—A diplomatic source in Khartoum has revealed that three battalions of Garang's movement have begun rebelling against Garang. They informed the leadership of the movement that there was no justification for the war. They asked the movement's leadership to be rational and to hold peace negotiations.

AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, quoting the diplomatic source, said that the majority of the men in the mutinous battalions were from the Shilluk, Nuer, and Dinka tribes. The paper clarified that 300 rebels had earlier surrendered to the armed forces commanders in the Upper Nile Region and the majority of them were from the tribes mentioned. The source said that widespread arrests and assassinations had occurred among the men of these battalions after Garang had sent 27 of his men to the town of (?Kariba) with the intention of containing the mutiny of the battalions [words indistinct]. Forty men were arrested, while three commanders were assassinated.

Ibrahim Accepted as New Envoy to Djibouti

EA1004165090 Khartoum SUNA Arabic 1455 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 April (SUNA)—The Government of Djibouti has accepted the nomination of Ambassador 'Ali Ahmad Ibrahim as ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the Republic of Djibouti.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives PLO's 'Arafat, Qaddumi

LD1004205990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met this afternoon Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat who was accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. President Yasir 'Arafat said that he discussed with the president a number of issues of importance to the Arab nation at this critical period and in the face of the fateful challenges which confront it. He said that foremost of these challenges are the Israeli threats to the Arab states, especially the recent ones against sister Iraq and also the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories and the danger it constitutes to pan-Arab security. He pointed to the importance of the adoption of Arab measures at the highest level, recalling the resolution passed by the Arab foreign ministers to speed up the holding of an extraordinary Arab summit to confront these challenges. Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] expressed hope that this meeting will enjoy speedy approval and be convened before the U.S.-Soviet summit late next month. President 'Arafat acquainted the head of state with the latest developments in the occupied territory, especially in the aftermath of the fall of the Shamir government for the first time thanks to the blessed intifadah, also of the attempts of the Israeli army and armed settlers to mete out exemplary punishment to Palestinian children and women and escalate the crimes against them. He confirmed the continuation of the intifadah until the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem. Abu 'Ammar ended his statement by once again thanking President Ben Ali for the firm stand of Tunisia—people, government and president—along the side of the Palestinian revolution backed by the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Ben Ali, 'Arafat View Arab Issues

LD1104093390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] At his meeting with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, the head of state raised a number of issues of concern to the Arab nation at this critical period, and the fateful challenges it is facing, foremost of which are the Israeli threats to the Arab states—especially against sister Iraq—as well as the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories and the dangers it poses to pan-Arab security as a whole. President Ben Ali stressed the importance of adopting Arab measures at the highest level, recalling the resolution of the Arab foreign ministers' conference to quickly convene an emergency Arab summit to face up to these challenges.

For his part, president Yasir 'Arafat expressed the hope that the summit gathering will receive speedy approval and convene before the U.S.-Soviet summit scheduled for the end of next month. He renewed his thanks to President Ban Ali for the firm stand of Tunisia's president, government, and people for the Palestinian revolution.

Bahrain

Amir 'Rejects' Interference in Iraq's Affairs

JN0604214290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpt] London, 6 Apr (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has said the Gulf Cooperation Council looks forward to further achievements by the end of the 20th century.

Commenting on the anti-Iraq campaign in Western media, Shaykh Khalifah said he rejects foreign interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. Each country has its own laws and system of government that must be respected by others, he added.

In a statement to the London-based AL-TADAMUN weekly, his highness said the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran marked an auspicious start for a dialogue between them. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Isa Cited on Lebanon, Gulf Ties, Bazoft

PM1104082890 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 9 Apr 90 pp 11-12

[Interview with Amir Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah by Fu'ad Matar in Bahrain; date not given]

[Text] Matar: I now am in the company of the doyen of Gulf rulers and witness of historic events, developments, and achievements, and we wish to hear his views on what is going to happen to Lebanon.

Shaykh 'Isa: The Lebanese problem can only be solved by the Lebanese people. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made good, gigantic efforts, but it is up to the Lebanese people to resolve an issue which, above all, concerns them.

The tripartite committee has done its share, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has done much. It now is up to the Lebanese people to confirm they really want to end this ordeal.

Matar: You are a historical witness of the changes which have occurred in the Gulf region from the days of poverty before oil, to affluence with the oil market boom, to the recession resulting from the sharp drop in oil prices. Do you believe the Gulf people have learned the lessons of these past periods?

Shaykh 'Isa: I believe they have. The formation of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] confirms that. The pleasant or unpleasant surprises of each stage made it necessary for the Gulf states' leaders to find a formula that would insulate our region against surprises and give it stability. That was the GCC formula.

Matar: How do you view the future of the Gulf region in the remaining years of the 20th century?

Shaykh 'Isa: The GCC was a giant step, but we look forward to what is even more important. I believe what we hope to achieve in the remaining years of the 20th century will be good, not only for the Gulf region, but for the entire Arab region as well.

Matar: Do you feel reassured about stability in the region, even though the Iranian regime does not display goodwill regarding a permanent and lasting solution with Iraq?

Shaykh 'Isa: The cease-fire was a good start, and we believe and hope the two sides can coexist in harmony, without either interfering in the other's affairs. We believe stability is important, and that development will be fast once the desired stability is achieved.

Matar: Many Arab meetings and conferences have been conducted during the last five years with your participation. What have they achieved?

Shaykh 'Isa: There have been many meetings and conferences but few results. We wish the opposite would happen—that is, fewer meetings and conferences and more significant results. Perhaps that could be achieved.

Matar: Your highness must be aware of the fierce British campaign against Iraq because it executed the spy, Bazoft. What is your comment on that?

Shaykh 'Isa: Every country has its laws and regulations that must be respected by others. For example, we in Bahrain have our own laws, which we enforce and carry out to the letter when necessary. We reject any interference in our affairs and any questioning of why we implement a law. What applies to us also should apply to others.

Matar: We are entering the holy month of fasting. On this occasion, what do you ask of almighty God for your people, the Gulf region's people, the Palestinian people, and the Lebanese people?

Shaykh 'Isa: I wish accord and fraternity for the Arabs in general. We wish the Palestinians united ranks, because unfortunately, their ranks are not united. Regarding Lebanon, we beseech God to protect and unite it. All the contradictions of Arab politics have reflected on Lebanon, but we hope these contradictions will be overcome. I repeat that what the tripartite committee has achieved, with great support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is good and should be upheld.

Kuwait

Cabinet Agrees To Send Lebanon Food, Medical Aid

LD0104164190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1246 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 1 (KUNA)—Kuwait Sunday decided to send medical and food aid to Lebanon to help the Lebanese people overcome their current plight and hoped peace and security would prevail in that war-torn Arab country.

The move was adopted by the Kuwaiti Cabinet in its weekly session held today and chaired by H.H. [his highness] the crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid told reporters after the meeting.

He said the decision was taken on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan and in recognition of the hardships being faced by the Lebanese people.

Rashed stated that the Cabinet was briefed at the outset of the two messages received by H.H. the amir from Guinean President Brigadier Lansana Conte and Cape Verde's President Aristides Maria Pereira which dealt with means of boosting bilateral relations between Kuwait an each of the two West African states.

The Cabinet was also informed of the guidelines of the five-year developmental plan (1990-95) which represents the first ring of the long-term planning drive that aims at building the Kuwait society. Rashid said the project included a comprehensive evaluation of achievements of the previous five-year plan and the objectives and general policies of the upcoming plan.

The ministers decided to refer the project to the Ministry of Planning in order to submit it to the Higher Planning Council, Rashid said.

Citizens 'Kidnapped' by Iranians Return Home

JN0604113390 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
4 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Citizens Faysal 'Abdallah al-Turki, 29, and 'Abd-al-Karim Ahmad Jawhar, 30, returned to the country at dawn on 2 April after they were kidnapped by Iranian gunmen on 24 February. AL-ANBA' has learned they were found in a cruiser in the open sea by an Iraqi gunboat and were handed over to the Kuwaiti authorities.

Faysal works for the Fire Brigade General Directorate. He is married and has two children, a boy and girl.

Editorial Praises Saddam's Warning to Israel

JN0504150290 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
4 Apr 90 p 6

[Ahmad al-Jarallah editorial: "Saddam's Response To Israel Praised"]

[Text] Apparently, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has been "humble" in his response to the Israeli threat as he said that he would destroy half of Israel if it carries out any aggression on Iraq.

Obviously, Israel knows with whom it is dealing and also knows men who translate their words into action. Further, Israel is aware that the present situation is unlike the one when it attacked the Iraqi nuclear plant in 1983 [as published] when Iraq was busy in the war. That aggression has certainly left an undeniable mark on the Iraqi thinking and it will not pass without Iraq redressing the issue—whether in the near or distant future.

Saddam Husayn is the man who appreciates that the sharpness of the knife has many features. It shaves men's beards and at the same time cuts when used improperly. Saddam Husayn certainly supports "soft shaving" if good relations are the aim. But, shaving becomes too dangerous and deadly against those who attempt to misuse the concept of good relations.

Israel realises that big powers become proud of the victorious at the end as results ultimately matter for these big powers. The very fact that President Saddam had borne in mind when he led his country to victory.

The results of wars have either black or white colours and are created by leaders who know how to create victory. Death is the same, whether it comes through defeat or victory. But, it is sweeter for Saddam when it comes with victory and this is what happened when he led his people to victory against those who tried to invade his country.

Israel realises with whom it is dealing now—a people and a leadership who have not yet taken off their military uniform, at the same time speaking of prosperity and progress. These people want to see their country Iraq, which once fed 50 million people and compared thought and creativity with gold, retaining its cultural and intellectual status.

We say this in spite of the fact that we in the Arab world have always been looking for peace, we do not want Israel and others to miscalculate their positions against Iraq, simply because we do not want to see more bloodshed and fighting.

Iraq wants to restore back its civilisation and achieve prosperity like a highly modern country.

Foreign Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia Visit

LD0404175590 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1656 GMT
4 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Apr (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Kuwait this evening for Riyadh on a short visit. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi left on the same flight on a short and private visit to Jeddah. They were seen off by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Salman Majid al-Shahin, and some departmental directors and senior officials in the ministry.

Crown Prince Says Parliament To Be Restored

JN1004193690 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 9 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] H.H. [His Highness] the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah affirmed yesterday that the parliamentary life in Kuwait would be restored.

Addressing a gathering of over 95 personalities comprising chairmen of public and co-operative societies, the crown prince emphasised that such return "must be tied with introducing some new regulations and conditions that would be agreed upon through dialogue with various sections of citizens." He affirmed that the dialogue will continue.

Shaykh Sa'd stressed on the need to learn the lessons from the experiments of the past in order to avoid committing the same mistakes in the future. He said that we are trying very hard to revive the parliamentary life "for the sake and service of the nation."

He affirmed that the strength of Kuwait emanates from the unity of its internal front under the leadership of H.H. the Amir. "This was the motive for us to overcome crisis and difficulties," Shaykh Sa'd stressed. He called for discarding the rumours and for fighting them. "Such rumours could well affect the unity and strength of our society and thus must be fought," Shaykh Sa'd said.

A number of personalities who attended the meeting stressed that Shaykh Sa'd insisted on the need to restore the National Assembly.

They said that a number of chairmen spoke during the meeting and stressed that "in order to ensure the smooth running of the Assembly regulations should be introduced after the return of the parliamentary life."

H.H. the Amir dissolved Parliament at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy the country.

Shaykh Sa'd said he would continue dialogue with various groups "on public participation which we want...but away from old practices."

Further on 'Parliamentary Life'

LD1004143890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1200 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, april 10 (KUNA)—H.H. the crown prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd Al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah Tuesday expressed satisfaction over the level of understanding and response on the part of citizens whom he met on the return of parliamentary life and its future.

His highness, in a statement to KUNA, noted that the series of meetings, which cover all sectors of the society, will include by end of this week non-profit societies, cooperative societies, labor unions and syndicates, private businessmen, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, shareholding companies in addition to the Olympic Committee and the sports federations and clubs.

Shaykh Sa'd praised the spirit of fraternity, positiveness and frankness which featured all meetings and lauded the valuable ideas, remarks and proposals tabled by citizens within framework of H.H. the amir's call that came in his fatherly speech last January opening dialogue on that vital and important issue.

Such opinions and proposals had reflected the Kuwaitis' belief in and keenness on the spirit of the one family and the fathers and forefathers's method of responsible dialogue as means to solve problems and to consult with amity and good will on all what concerns the nation in a bid to serve their country and consolidate its security and stability, the crown prince underlined.

He expressed appreciation of all constructive ideas that have emerged during his highness' meetings, affirming that when they are presented to H.H. the amir they will be met with utmost concern.

The crown prince and premier pointed out that those proposals and ideas will pose as the basis for the next stage of the dialogue which will tackle determining appropriate mechanism for that dialogue on details of regulations and basis for the return of parliamentary life on solid basis ensuring it continuation.

Such solid basis should also ensure avoiding reasons that led to hurdling the parliamentary life through a comprehensive and objective evaluation of that experiment to realize the state and the citizens interests under leadership of his highness the amir, Shaykh Sa'd.

Shaykh Salim Addresses London Drug Forum

LD1004172690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1449 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] London, April 10 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah Tuesday proposed adopting strict international measures against countries involved in training or supplying drug traffickers with weapons or other means that could complicate the problem.

Shaykh Salim, addressing the international conference for combatting drugs, further proposed that the London declaration of the conference should include asking all world countries to ratify the 1988 U.N.-sponsored agreement on fighting drugs and to form higher national committees to combat drugs with full jurisdictions.

The minister proposed urging drug producing countries to cooperate with the international community to terminate the problem, improving rehabilitation programs for addicts, intensifying media campaigns to arrest international drug traffickers, boosting role of family, school and religion in combatting the phenomenon, restricting movement of drug convicts and finally exerting more efforts in exposing money laundering which is best used by the international drug dealers.

Shaykh Salim asserted that the first step toward combatting that serious crime was boosting international cooperation in deeds rather than words. He pointed out that leaders of drug smuggling rings are deployed in various areas of the world and using latest technological methods to produce and circulate their destructive merchandise. Numerous studies even indicate that several terrorist operations were linked to drug issues and underlined difficulty of the situation if each country took it on her own to handle the issue.

The Kuwaiti interior minister presented to the conferees a summary of the problem in Kuwait, noting that the Kuwaiti society and until a short period of time did not experience that problem. [sentence as received]

Shaykh Salim said, however, that the problem was snowballing and cited statistics revealing that 1533 defendants were arrested for drug-related offences in the period 1985-89 while those receiving treatment for addiction in the same period amounted to 1260 patients.

He listed hashish, heroin, opium, and other pills as the most used in the country and elaborated despite the limited dimension of the problem yet the state had enacted a series of measures to check its spread.

He cited those as enacting stricter laws punishing drug traffickers and addicts with 15 years imprisonment while allowing the release of the convict if he informs on his accessories before the authorities knowledge of them in addition to health programs to the addicts.

A national committee, drawing broad lines of combatting drugs, was formed to coordinate efforts of government and private sectors in the combat operation. Kuwait, believing in cooperation among countries was the topmost element to ensure success of combat efforts, had coordinated combat plans with other Arab countries, the minister said. He added that Kuwait further cooperated with other world countries and bodies in this regard and noted that Kuwait was about to finalize its ratification procedures of the Vienna agreement on drug trafficking that was adopted by the U.N. conference in December 1988.

Shaykh Salim underlined that Kuwait's participation in that conference reflected the increasing concern of the country, topped by His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, to strengthen international cooperation in fighting drugs which further interprets the Islamic religion's teachings.

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Opens Special Session

EA0404231590 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee has begun its 20th extraordinary session, chaired by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee. Committee members during the session will examine a number of issues concerning the progress of national work and will assess the work and activities of the unionist committees during the past period and discuss practical measures to implement the comprehensive political and economic reform program, in light of the decisions of the 19th session of the party Central Committee.

The first session was devoted to reviewing the unified work and results of the Yemeni summits in Mukayras and Ta'izz, the meeting of the prime ministers in Ta'izz, and the second joint meeting of the two Councils of Ministers, conducted recently in Aden. The Central Committee expressed its happiness with the positive results produced by these meetings and the good manner in which the unionist work was proceeding.

Concludes Session 4 Apr

EA0604210990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The YSP Central Committee concluded its 20th extraordinary session on 4 April. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP secretary general, chaired the session. Members examined the Political Bureau report on the level of the unionist committees' work and the progress of unionist activity between the two parts of the homeland. Regarding this, the Central Committee members expressed their appreciation for the efforts which have and are being exerted by the unity committees. They also highly appreciated the meetings and contacts between the leaderships of the two parts aiming at the completion of the creation of circumstances for the establishment of the united state, the destiny and fate of our people.

The Central Committee members assessed the results of the meetings at the summits of Mukayras and Ta'izz, the meeting of the prime ministers of the two parts in Ta'izz, and the results of the second joint meeting of the Councils of Ministers in the two parts, which convened in Aden. It stressed the need for practical implementation of the results of those unionist meetings, transforming the decisions they produced into tangible work on the path of unity.

It also renewed its emphasis on spreading democracy throughout the life of society and giving nationalist forces a chance for active participation in the political, social and cultural life of the country. It emphasized the need to accelerate issuance of the parties' law, in confirmation of the Central Committee decision in its 19th session, after it was sent down for mass discussion and approved.

The Central Committee members advised the Supreme People's Council to add 20 percent to its strength from representatives of the Yemeni nationalist movement, independent personalities, and representatives of the national capitalists. It also recommended widening the Supreme People's Council Presidium, based on its the belief in strengthening the role of the Supreme People's Council and the Presidium in the political and social life of the country and in a manner in line with the unionist steps and the comprehensive political and economic reform measures.

In their discussion on the question of executing the reform program, the Central Committee members stressed the importance of transforming the reform's documents into a tangible material force in the life of the masses. Regarding this, the Central Committee members appealed to the Council of Ministers Presidium, different state organs and institutions, and mass and creative organizations to mobilize all energies to execute the reform program.

At the end of the session, the Central Committee members expressed their happiness with the measures taken and executed by the government concerning the increase in wages, reduction of electricity charges and the transfer of ownership of houses by selection and other measures aiming at improving the people's living standards, in line with the decisions of the 19th session of the party's Central Committee. They stressed the need to execute the decisions of the Central Committee and its recommendations aimed at improving the people's material and spiritual living standards. It also stressed the importance for the relevant authorities to pay greater attention to the issues of supply, to provide the needs of the citizens for basic goods and to tackle any difficulties arising from them.

The Central Committee members also discussed in their session a number of issues on the agenda, and took the necessary decisions on them.

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives in Sayiun

EA0404230990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by General Kovisky, deputy chief of staff of the Soviet Army and commander of the Signal Troops of the Soviet Armed Forces, arrived in Sayiun this morning for a short visit to Wadi Hadramawt, during which it will be briefed on the archaeological and historic landmarks in the Wadi.

In a statement to an ADEN NEWS AGENCY reporter in Sayiun, Gen. Kovisky expressed his strong admiration of the historical and archaeological landmarks he had seen, which confirmed the Yemeni people's ancient civilization.

Al-'Attas, Saddam Talk Stresses Support for Iraq

EA0704160490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] There was a telephone conversation this evening between brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq.

The conversation emphasized our country's solidarity with fraternal Iraq in facing imperialist and Zionist plots, as well as hostile propaganda attacks. These attacks are aimed at damaging the right of Iraq and the entire Arab people to defend Arab national security and safeguard the national sovereignty of our Arab people.

In his telephone conversation with his brother, Saddam Husayn, brother al-'Attas stated our Yemeni people view, with limitless pride, the victories and achievements scored by Iraq in various spheres, on which the destiny of the Arab homeland and the entire Arab people depends. He described the role played by Iraq in plunging into the technological sphere and building an aerospace and strategic industry as an embodiment of a daring and pioneering role of Arab ingenuity in the process of acquiring and applying scientific knowledge. It is reminiscent of the bright heritage of our Arab history, which is full of radiant traditions of innovation, which Arab scholars, philosophers, and thinkers brought about, and by which they built the Arab and Islamic civilization.

The brother chairman of the presidium further added that Iraqi resistance in confronting the broad imperialist and Zionist attack, which has increased in ferocity because of the Iraq's increasing scientific achievements, forms one of the most noted battles of honor which our Arab nation, together with the Iraq of the two rivers, has entered, toward the direction of forming an Arab national civilization plan by which our nation is preparing to emerge from the 20th century toward the third millenium in the history of mankind by preserving its honor and dignity and reviving its power.

Pro-YAR Suspects Freed; Party Renamed

PM1104080490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] At midday yesterday the authorities of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] released two military fighter pilots, Captain 'Aydarus Hammud and Captain Husayn Ziban, in addition to Fatimah al-Muhammadi and others accused of having links with the security organs in the northern part of Yemen, who were arrested a year ago.

A few days ago, the first group of those accused in the same case were released.

Meanwhile, the "League of Yemen's Sons," headed by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jafri, has emphasized it has not dissolved as a party. It recently issued a statement announcing the cessation of opposition to the PDRY regime, "because we are all—both the regime and the opposition—working together to build a united Yemeni state."

In a letter to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the league said it has changed its name from the "League of the Arab South's Sons" to the "League of Yemen's Sons." The letter says the league's secretary general is Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr Farid.

The letter affirmed the League of Yemen's Sons will remain a party on the Yemeni scene.

Qatar

Amir Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message

JN3103121290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Doha, 31 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Qatar, has received an oral message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Vladimir Vodyakin, Soviet ambassador to the State of Qatar, conveyed the message to the amir today during a meeting.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said the message deals with the current situation and developments in the USSR and the Soviet stand on the Middle East and the Palestine question, as well as its opposition to settling the Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied Arab territory. The message also deals with bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Meets With Kuwait's Foreign Minister

LD0504132190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, tonight received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to King Fahd a message from his brother, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the fraternal State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the Royal Guard, received in his highness's palace tonight Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

The discussion during the meeting covered the friendly relations between the two fratneral countries. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir then received in his residence at the Conference Palace in the city of Riyadh His Royal Highness Prince Nayyif Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Riyadh region, who presented to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad their sincere condolences on the death of his wife who recently passed away. [passage omitted]

Paper on 'Obstacles' to Regional Peace Process

LD3003125190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0315 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh 30 March SPA—UKAZ pointed out the peace process in the Middle East is facing many obstacles, despite exerted efforts to activate it and bring it out of the dark tunnel.

The newspaper said these obstacles are the Israeli rejection of the just peace based on giving rights to their legitimate owners, Israeli maneuvers and attempts to evade pressure calling on it to respond to peace, and the attempts of the Zionist lobby in the United States to influence the decisionmaking centers to adopt stands which do not serve the peace process.

It pointed out the United States, as a superpower, has responsibilities toward international peace and security which are contradicted by the U.S. Senate resolution on Jerusalem. Adopting the resolution at this moment also is an abortion of the peace process, because the efforts should concentrate on continuing the dialogue with those concerned with the Palestinian issue, with the PLO at their forefront, to remove obstacles before peace, instead of adding new ones.

The newspaper said: Saudi rejection of the resolution, which will lead to the waste of the Palestinian people's rights and defies Islamic public opinion, confirms the Saudi stands supporting the Palestinian cause. The Palestinians and the whole world appreciate these stands. This rejection also confirms the fact Saudi Arabia will continue to support the Palestilnian cause as the central Arab cause, because of Saudi support of just and right causes until the Palestinian people regain their right to establish their state, like any other people.

AL-JAZIRAH described the U.S. Senate resolution to consider Jerusalem the united capital of Israel a blatant defiance of international will; disregard for the feelings of Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims; and a shameful violation of all international conventions and treaties supporting human rights and condemming racism and colonialism.

The newspaper said the resolution is a shameful abortion of all the good offices aimed at putting an end to a conflict that has lasted more than 40 years, and which has given rise to wars that obstructed the march of growth and stability in one of the world's most important strategic regions.

The newspaper said Saudi Arabia, by its objection to that resolution and by calling on the Senate to withdraw it, confirms the firmness of the Saudi course and that Arab and Islamic rights are basic rights that are not subjected to baraging or change, and no one can toy with them or violate them.

The newspaper said the Saudi address to the UN Security Council on the emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine and the continuous settlement operations in the occupied territories is an expression of an united Islamic Arab stance toward the most important issues of the nation.

AL-YAWM reviewed the statement of the responsible Saudi source about the U.S. Senate resolution to consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

The newspaper stressed that resolution severely hurts the feelings of Muslims everywhere in the world, not to mention that it contradicts the international conventions and laws prohibiting the aggressor from changing the features of the occupied territories, which makes it a violation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The newspaper also said that resolution also contradicts the stances of the United States itself toward the UN resolutions on holy Jerusalem.

The newspaper expressed its hopes the U.S. Senate will withdraw this resolution so the peace efforts in the Middle East will not be obstructed. The newspaper said adopting that resolution when the United States is trying to establish a dialogue with PLO representatives is considered an abortion of the peace process in the region.

Spokesman on Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

JN3103180290 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Mar 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Kingdom's Solicitude for Palestinian Rights"]

[Text] Any resolution compromising Palestinian rights and defying Muslim opinion will be rejected by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Accordingly, the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel has been rejected by an official Saudi spokesman.

Muslims throughout the world have been pained and offended. The Senate resolution runs counter to international laws and conventions which forbid a belligerent nation from changing the features of occupied territory.

The resolution also is at odds with the U.S. position on UN resolutions on Jerusalem.

We hope the Senate will reverse its resolution so efforts to promote a peace settlement in the Middle East do not falter. Coming at a time when the United States is engaging the PLO in a dialaogue, the resolution may scuttle the peace process.

Saudi Arabia also has denounced the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestinian territory as a peace-threatening development. The Kingdom also is on record as having condemned the housing of Jewish emigrants in settlements as an act lacking legality and legitimacy.

The Kingdom's UN delegate noted Israel's truculent and irredentist mentality consistently has been impervious to numerous UN resolutions faulting its behavior. Saudi Arabia has urged prompt action by the UN to safeguard the sanctity of the holy places and the religious and civil rights of the Palestinians.

United Arab Emirates

North Yemen's President Salih Arrives for Talks

JN1004215790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the sisterly United Arab Emirates [UAE], during which he will conduct talks with his brother, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. The talks will center on the close bilateral relations, spheres of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and means of bolstering them, in addition to current Arab affairs and issues of interest to the Arab nation.

The president is accompanied during this visit by Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister and General Committee member; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member; Dr. Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; and Dr. Nasir al-'Awlaqi, minister of agriculture and fisheries.

Meanwhile, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan hosted a banquet in honor of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The banquet was attended by the president's delegation and UAE Government and state officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Interior Minister Arrives With Message

JN0504181090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, Political Bureau member, deputy prime minister, and interior minister in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa today on a several-day visit.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, he said he is carrying an oral message to brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. The message deals with continuing unity efforts between the two parts. He also said that during the visit, he will follow up on continuing brotherly dialogue on unionist activities, merging ministries and institutions, the agreement on the final organizational structure of the unified ministry under the unity state, preparing necessary steps for the referendum, and preparing the two ministries of interior in this direction. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Departs for Amman Meetings

JN0404125790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member, left for Amman today to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's foreign ministers today in the Jordanian capital. He said in a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY that the meeting will be dedicated to discussing new developments in the Arab arena, particularly the means with which to confront the aggressive campaign against Iraq by those circles known for their hostility against the Arab nation and their firm bond with the hostile Zionist schemes.

Foreign Minister Returns From Amman, Cairo Talks

JN0604130890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member, arrived in Sanaa last night from Amman after taking part in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers conducted in the Jordanian capital.

He explained in a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY that the conferees discussed the most recent Arab developments and the challenges and conspiracies the Arab nation is facing at this time. He pointed out that when they were received by Jordanian monarch King Husayn in the presence of the crown prince and the prime minister, the foreign ministers discussed with him the means and ways of confronting these challenges, whether within the framework of the ACC or on the Arab and international levels. He noted the meeting resulted in a press statement that covered all topics discussed.

Concluding his statement, Dr. al-Iryani explained he had gone to Cairo yesterday afternoon along with his brother, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, after the conclusion of the Amman meeting. While in Cairo, he met with [name indistinct], under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, and current changes.

Expelled U.S. Diplomat Leaves Baghdad 9 Apr

JN1004114790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Apr 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (WAKH)—Western diplomatic sources in Baghdad today said the U.S. diplomat the Iraqi Government decided to expel yesterday left the Iraqi capital late last night for his country.

The sources told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad the name of the expelled U.S. diplomat is [name indistinct], and that he was the second secretary at the United States Embassy in Baghdad.

This is the second U.S. diplomat to be expelled from Iraq since the resumption of relations between the two countries late in 1984. The Iraqi authorities expelled another U.S. diplomat from the U.S. Embassy in late 1988.

The expulsion of the U.S. diplomat is a reciprocal move in response to the expulsion of one of the accredited diplomats at the permanent Iraqi mission to the United Nations.

U.S. 'Direct Partner' in 'Zionist Terrorism'

JN1104080890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described the United States as a direct partner in any Zionist act of terrorism.

In an article today, the paper says: The United States stands as a direct partner to the Zionist entity when it threatens the Arab states and when the Arab states decide to confront the Zionist terrorism or to announce any Arab deterrence to this terrorism.

The paper adds: The United States also is a direct partner in the new escalating Zionist wave of terrorism because it protects and supports the Zionist entity in the plan to settle hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories, and extends financial aid to it to enable it to carry out this clear act of terrorism.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The United States knows full well any aid it extends to the Zionist entity immediately turns into a source of power for any Zionist act of terrorism or aggression against the Arab homeland and its sons.

The paper stresses it is an indisputable fact the basic source of the Zionist strength is the financial and military aid extended to the Zionist entity by the United States. This aid amounts to huge figures unparalleled anywhere the United States has a military presence or political influence outside its territory.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: If the United States wants to regain any bit of its lost credibility in confronting international terrorism, then it must first, before anything else, confront Zionist terrorism that threatens the security and interests of tens of millions of Arabs in their homeland and on their national soil.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes Bush Statements

JN1004104990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—In its editorial today under the headline "The Awareness of Responsibility," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It seems to us President Bush has become confused and can no longer distinguish between what is good and what is bad.

The paper adds: Bush's emotional reaction and loss of control have not come as a result of his concern over the escalation of tension in the region, but because Iraq has announced its possession of a strategic deterrence force that has ended the Zionist military and armament superiority over the Arabs. The following is the text of the article:

It is neither guesswork nor speculation to say the USSR's preoccupation with its domestic affairs, and the profound changes and developments that have recently affected the international order, have made the United States behave as if it is the only superpower controlling this region. It actually has begun to unveil its suspect policies and plans and to deal unilaterally with the region and its affairs. Within this context, we can view several U.S. statements and actions these days concerning the Arab nation, its interests, legitimate rights, and pan-Arab security. Among these statements is the one by President George Bush on 3 April, in which he commented on President Saddam Husayn's announcement of Iraq's possession of binary chemical weapons, and his warning to the Zionist entity not to carry out any act of aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

No strenuous effort needs to be made to realize the U.S. President's statement is characterized by feverish emotional reaction and deliberate disregard of well-known and essential facts pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In fact, we can say without exaggeration Mr. Bush's statement is a very clear expression of shock and frustration with the knowledge of Iraq's possession of a strategic deterrence force that constitutes a decisive turning point in the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict and the strategic situation in the region. If the U.S. President says "the time now is not a time for talking about using chemical and biological weapons", then we say very calmly and without excitement that President Saddam Husayn's speech about chemical weapons has come at the right time. This is because it has come in the course of "in the event Israel threatens us or any of the Arabs militarily, including with nuclear weapons". In this sense, the talk about chemical weapons came within President Saddam Husayn's warning to the Zionist entity, and not in the context of threats or demonstration of power, as the Zionists have done and are doing.

Mr. Bush added: "The time is not appropriate for escalating tension in the Middle East." Here we ask: Who has been escalating tension in the region for more than 40 years? Any quick review of the facts of the Arab-Zionist conflict will clearly show that the one who escalates tension in the Middle East is Israel by occupying the land of the Palestinians, and using methods of oppression and malicious, tragic killing of Palestinians on a daily basis. The one escalating tension in the Middle East is the United States by supporting Israel in its occupation of Palestinian territory and by continuing to supply Israel with the means of power, thus adding to its belligerence to such an extent that it is unconcerned about the people's demands for their rights to their land, security, and dignity.

Mr. Bush reacted emotionally and lost his self-control not out of concern over the escalation of tension in the region, but because Iraq has announced its possession of a strategic deterrence force that has ended the Zionist military and armament superiority over the Arabs. The United States always has been concerned to maintain this superiority. Mr. Bush believes Iraq and all the Arabs do not have the right to possess the weapons Israel possesses. As President Saddam Husayn said at the news conference before President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's departure, however, it must be made clear to the whole world the policy of prohibition imposed on the Arabs must end once and for all, since in terms of human values and natural rights to their own policies and sovereignty and everything else, they are entitled to the same rights as every individual on earth.

It is strange the U.S. President has strongly urged Iraq to renounce the use of chemical weapons, while at the same time he never has urged Israel to renounce the use of chemical, nuclear, or biological weapons. The strangest thing is the U.S. President believes chemical weapons "do not help peace in the Middle East". Of course, he believes they do not help peace if possessed by Iraq. Who knows, perhaps the U.S. President believes chemical and other weapons help peace if they are possessed only by the Zionist entity. Mr. Bush also thinks chemical weapons do not help the security interests of Iraq. According to this opinion then, the possession of all kinds of weapons do not help the security interests of world states. If matters are this way, then why does the United States not begin with itself and empty its nuclear, chemical, and biological arsenals? Why does the U.S. President not address his advice to his allies in Tel Aviv, who possess chemical and other kinds of weapons?

If this is President Bush's belief, as President Saddam Husayn commented, then let him propose it for discussion at the United Nations so the countries of the world can hear his opinion, both those that helped to set the principles, and those that joined the international community based on its principles. Only then will President Bush see that the whole world, and not just Iraq, will tell him his opinions are wrong. Iraq, more than any other party, is aware of its international responsibilities and commitments. Peace is one of its firm principles. It has proven this throughout the war, and at a time when the U.S. Administration was involved in the Irangate scandal, and when it was busy in trying to prolong the war through supplying the Tehran regime with weapons and intelligence data. Iraq, however, also believes the right to legitimate self-defense and security is a duty, because it is a firm right that constitutes one of the pillars and requirements of the sovereignty of any of the world's countries.

After all this, it appears the U.S. President has become confused and can no longer distinguish between what is good and what is bad. It is right then to remind him of some issues the whole world unanimously agrees are bad. These include invading the country of a peaceful people, changing its political system, and occupying its national territory with military forces. Included also is the attempt to beautify the ugly image of world Zionism, which was considered a racist movement by the international legitimacy. All that remains to say is that political hypocrisy on the international level is wrong and disgraceful, especially when it is exercised by the president of a superpower such as the United States.

Last-Minute Changes Delay Knesset Vote on Peres

Accord, Support Reached

TA1104043490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpts] MAPAM [United Workers Party] decided late last night to support the Alignment government without joining it. It was decided the negotiations will continue, during which a MAPAM ministerial candidate will be chosen. [passage omitted]

The Likud and the four breakaway Liberals signed a coalition accord early this morning. The Likud accepted the demands presented by the Moda'i group. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that among other things, the Likud agreed to take action, within a period of six months, to promote the issue of direct elections for prime minister and Knesset electoral reform. It was stipulated this would be done in coordination with and with the consent of the smaller parties in the Likud camp.

Our correspondent reports the agreement was signed by all the Likud ministers, led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and the four members of the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel. As part of the agreement, Mr. Shamir promised Minister Moda'i the position of finance minister if he forms the next government. Mr. Shamir announced that he promised the Moda'i group the accord would be endorsed at the Likud convention to make it binding and inalienable.

MK Verdiger Resigns

TA1104052790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el Knesset member [MK] Avraham Verdiger resigned from the Knesset this morning and will not attend this morning's session or participate in the vote of confidence. This now reduces to 60 the number of MK's who support Peres' government.

MK Verdiger said he submitted his resignation to Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky in the early hours of the morning. MK Verdiger explained he had received an express order from the Lubavitcher Rabbi not to support a Peres-led government, and he had decided to resign so as not to be torn between the Council of Torah Scholars and the Lubavitcher Rabbi.

He stated he had submitted his resignation only this morning, because the Labor Party had promised it would not be content with a majority of only 61 MK's. He claimed it is inconceivable people who support the PLO will participate in deciding the fate of Eretz Yisra'el. MK Verdiger also stressed he did not coordinate his position with Agudat Yisra'el MK Eli'ezer Mizrahi, from the Habad ultraorthodox group, and that he has no knowledge of any decisions Mizrahi may have made.

Knesset Debates Presentation

TA1104063590

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Television Service, Jerusalem Domestic Service, and Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0603 GMT on 11 April begin live coverage of the Knesset debate on the new Cabinet to be presented by MK Shim'on Peres and the guidelines outlined by the Labor Party on 10 April.

Speaker Shilansky calls for disciplined behavior and proceeds to read Peres' note of last week, in which he states he has managed to muster a majority to support a new government. MK Shahal ascends the podium at 0606 GMT. He notes that because word of the resignation of one of the MK's who was supposed to be in the 61-member group supporting the government has only been received "now," he is seeking a "two-hour recess." The Knesset presidium adjourns for consultation at 0616 GMT, and the Alignment MK's leave for another hall to determine whether the Labor Party still enjoys a majority, even after MK Verdiger's resignation, in light of MK Porush's affirmation that Agudat Yisra'el will fulfill its promise to the Alignment of the support of the five MK's.

At 0628 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF radio reports that Agudat Yisra'el MK Eli'ezer "Mizrahi is apparently going to announce a one-man faction" and "he will not support a Peres-led government." Mizrahi "will vote no confidence in the government rather than abstain from a vote." The correspondent adds that this leaves the Knesset split in half over support for or opposition to Peres' government.

At 0647 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio's correspondent in the Knesset reports that SHAS's [Torah Observing Sephardim] Council of Torah Scholars is in session right now to determine its voting pattern today, and that MK Avraham Sharir, who defected from the Likud camp to the Alignment ranks, is not present in the Knesset hall. Jerusalem Domestic Service reports Peres does not want to present his cabinet today, and that the speaker now is considering the options. According to the law, an MK's resignation takes effect 48 hours after the submittal of the letter of resignation. Thus, a two-day deferral of the Knesset vote would allow Agudat Yisra'el to introduce a new MK in lieu of outgoing MK Verdiger, thus providing the support of four MK's for Peres' government, as promised by MK Porush. Tel Aviv IDF Radio's correspondent adds that this move nevertheless requires presidential approval.

At 0715 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio correspondent reads MK Mizrahi's official letter of resignation "submitted a few moments ago." Mizrahi's statement to the press reads as follows: "Following lengthy deliberations, I have decided to oppose a government headed by Shim'on Peres." This is because "in the past few days I noticed with apprehension how all the red lines we had set for ourselves had been broken. The condition was that the government would be based on a Jewish majority, while at the present moment, Agudat Yisra'el is lending its hand to a government based on Arab, PLO-supporting MK's. My political views advocate the prevention of any negotiations aimed at handing over territory to Israel's enemies. I object to a government that intends to give momentum to something that may lead to establishing a Palestinian state." He adds he believes "another session of the Council of Torah Sages is necessary. If that would have been possible today, the Alignment would not have won support." Mizrahi says he wishes to "clarify that I have received no instruction from the venerable Lubavitcher Rabbi, but as one familiar with the honorable rabbi's views on the integrity of the country, I am convinced I took the right step." He adds in conclusion: "I am hereby resigning from Agudat Yisra'el, but I am not resigning from the Knesset." He is reported to have given a similar message to Shim'on Peres as well.

At 0727 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio interviews MK Peres who says he will "first go to inform the president of what happened." Asked whether he still has a chance to form a government, he says: "I think I stand a chance." Jerusalem Television's political correspondent Yiga'el Goren also interviews Peres and reports that Peres says he has informed the Knesset speaker he is "unable" to present the cabinet today due to the changes in Agudat Yisra'el. He refuses to divulge details of what he will tell the president, although he notes that "democracy is not simple or easy." Noting his "deep inner conviction" that this is the best way, Peres says he is "optimistic" about still being able to form a government.

At 0738 GMT, Jerusalem Television's political correspondent Yiga'l Goren interviews Agudat Yisra'el MK Menahem Porush, who hopes, "with God's help," to fulfill the promise to the Labor Party and provide "full support" for Peres. He expresses his conviction Agudat Yisra'el's history of honoring the ruling of the Council of Torah Sages will not be violated. He says the two breakaway MK's had been "misinformed" regarding the Lubavitcher Rabbi's position and had thus been led astray.

Tel Aviv IDF Radio reports on Peres' letter to Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, requesting a "cancellation of today's debate and its rescheduling at a later date," in view of the developments in Agudat Yisra'el. The correspondent points out the new Agudat Yisra'el MK, who is supposed to join the Knesset in 48 hours, will "probably be David Halahmi." Dalya Goren, the Labor Party secretary in the Knesset, has presented President Hayim Herzog with Shim'on Peres' letter requesting "that the president take note that he is postponing the presentation of the government to another date and is seeking an extension." At the same time, Jerusalem Domestic Service adds that Peres is seeking a "48-hour extension."

The IDF Radio correspondent cites "senior Likud members" as saying that if the president "fails to entrust Yitzhaq Shamir with the job of forming the government, he will in fact be betraying his office."

At 0804 GMT, Jerusalem Television Service shows the Knesset plenary hall filling up in anticipation of the resumption of the session, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir takes his seat at 0807 GMT.

At 0815 GMT, Speaker Shilansky ascends the dais, announcing he is hereby resuming the Knesset session and expressing "regret that the recess took longer than expected," because many views and "fundamental exchanges" took place. He says it is his duty to make a decision regarding the continuation of the session after being informed by Shim'on Peres that "mishaps" took place in the formation of the government and that he is "incapable of presenting the government to the Knesset at this session," but that while he has reached a "reasoned decision," he must take into account that this is an "unprecedented" event in the history of the Knesset; therefore, before announcing his decision, he will give the floor to those MK's who had requested permission to speak before the adjournment.

At 0858 GMT, after the Likud's Beni Begin, Tzomet's Yo'ash Tzidon, HADASH's [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Tawfiq Tubi, Tzomet's Refa'el Eytan, Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen, Alignment MK Shevah Weiss, CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK Ran Kohen, Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi, the Alignment's Moshe Shahal and Mikha'el Bar-Zohar, MK Rabbi 'Azran of SHAS, and Agudat Yisra'el's Rabbi Porush express their views on whether to continue the session or adjourn and reschedule, Speaker Shilansky announces his decision that "there is no point in calling MK Shim'on Peres to take the floor and present the government."

Shilansky then allows two other speakers, Arab Democratic Party MK Darawshah and Likud MK 'Ovadya 'Eli, to take the floor. They are followed by MK Hayim Ramon, the Alignment caucus leader in the Knesset, who explains that Peres is not unable to present a government, but is only unable to do so "now."

At 0910 GMT Speaker Shilansky announces: "I have no authority beyond my powers, and I cannot give any MK an extension. This is the exclusive jurisdiction of the president of the state." As a result, Shilansky notes, "the ball is back in the president's court." He therefore announces the "adjournment of the session." The Knesset session ends at 0912 GMT, with the speaker announcing that the Knesset will reconvene on 7 May, following its recess.

Peres Remains 'Optimistic'

TA1104080090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 0727 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Yig'al Goren in the Knesset building in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Goren] Mr. Peres, what will happen next?

[Peres] Since developments in recent hours were unexpected—at least in terms of everything that concerns me—it has become clear to me that I will be unable to present a government to the Knesset today. I informed the Knesset speaker of this, and we shall try to set a different date.

[Goren] What will the moves in the next few days be? What should happen next?

[Peres] First, Agudat Yisra'el announced that it wants to guarantee that all its members vote, so we should give it a chance to organize this.

[Goren] Will you ask the president of the state to give you an extension?

[Peres] I will announce what I will ask of the president of the state after I visit him.

[Goren] In conclusion Mr. Peres, what is your reaction to developments over the last 24 hours? What is your assessment?

[Peres] Look, democracy is not simple or easy. One must cross over a great many obstacles and hurdles, which I am doing. I am doing this out of a deep inner conviction that this is the right thing; nothing has changed with me.

[Goren] Was it possible to foresee moves such as those which have taken place over the last 24 hours?

[Peres] These have not been ordinary moves, and it was very difficult to foresee them.

[Goren] One last question, Mr. Peres. Are you still optimistic about being able to form a government in Israel?

[Peres] Yes.

[Goren] Thank you, sir.

Rejects Unity, Rotation

TA1104102390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0917 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Raz in the Knesset building in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Raz] Mr. Peres, the Knesset session is over. What are your next moves?

[Peres] First, let us describe facts as they now stand. I sent the letter [announcing his ability to form a government] to the Knesset speaker and to the president of the State on 4 April. On 3 April, namely, the evening before, the entire Agudat Yisra'el faction, including Knesset Members Verdiger and Mizrahi, came to me, and we signed an agreement on the basis of which I made my announcement to the president. Of course, a new situation was created when I woke up this morning to hear that one of the Agudat Yisra'el members decided to resign and another decided to change his mind. Agudat Yisra'el says it wants to appoint another member to the Knesset in place of the one who resigned. According to the regulations, this takes 48 hours, so I was left with no choice but to follow the legal procedure, and this is how I acted.

[Raz] Do you believe that after 48 hours you will have put together a blocking group or have exceeded the 60-seat mark?

[Peres] I will try to do everything I can. The decision is difficult, and the balance of power is not simple, either. I have no reason to despair, however, nor do I have reason to regret what I did. I followed everything that is stipulated in the regulations.

[Raz] A few minutes ago Minister Der'i told us SHAS is insisting a national unity government be reestablished, with the possibility of rotating the premiership. Is this idea acceptable to you?

[Peres] I received my party's mandate to form a government that will give a positive reply to Baker's appeal, and I insist on this mandate.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, thank you very much.

Peres on Guidelines, Cabinet

TA1104051890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2028 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Address by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres at the Labor Party Central Committee session at Be Berl—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: These have been difficult days for the State of Israel and the Labor Party. Let us not delude ourselves: Major decisions involve great pains. It is no picnic or a fashion show. I strongly abhor any attempt to diminish the party's moral authority. Mikha'el [not further specified] wrote David Ben-Gurion's biography, but I worked with him. Did David Ben-Gurion alter the electoral system? Because he did not, did he resign from the government? Did people not shift allegiances during Ben-Gurion's days? There were two Knesset members [MK's] who moved from one party to the Labor Party. The Labor Party pledged to pay all their debts, but no one claimed there was something morally wrong there. What stories are you telling me? When was Hamizrahi Bank established? During my time?

We would have betrayed our office had we tossed the peace process aside and gone to the streets to demonstrate [for electoral reform] just to please people. I always have favored altering the electoral system, and I furthermore voted in that spirit in the Knesset. It was not necessary to wake me up in the night to ask me to please vote for electoral reform; I already did that. But we failed to garner a majority, and I doubt we can muster a majority even now. I favor a change, because it is for the good of the state and the people. But let me ask you this: Will the change solve all the problems? England has a superb democratic system, but did that prevent the current demonstrations, violence, and running riot? Did that solve all the problems in England, which does not have the security and peace problems that we have. Everything revolved round the poll tax [previous two words in English], a tax. In Greece, elections were conducted three times in six months, and did that solve the problems?

Let us not create images of false messiahs. It is indeed necessary to change and improve, but it is likewise necessary to see things in the right proportion. I ask myself today: If I had to choose between changing the electoral system, as Tamar [not further identified] argued, within three months—and incidentally, where did you pick the figure of three months? Did Shamir promise you, or will you ask for financial guarantees? I do not understand how we can promise this will be done in three months. What if it takes six months, or if people change their minds five times in the course of the process? Are we not aware of the reality in which we live? But deferring dealing with peace, aliyah, or the establishment of the government for six months in favor of electoral reform—pitting one against the other—is that moral?

I say the formation of a government, maintaining the peace process, preserving the aliyah momentum, and refusing to let Arab opposition to aliyah enjoy freedom of action or reap more political benefits comes first. I do not propose we put peace off until we effect electoral reform, for only God knows when we will achieve that. [applause]

If, for example, on the eve of the war in Lebanon I had been faced with the dilemma of either persuading an MK or two to move over to our side and thereby prevent that war or, in the name of having a so-called pretty electoral face, sit back and do nothing but let the war progress with the price it exacted, what would have been moral? What would have been immoral?

Let us be honest: Do not preach morals to us! One can argue with me about which is the right path, but none of us works out of sheer pleasure. None of us leads such a simple life. We are called upon to make grave decisions, and we work hard. Yet one thing, or rather two, I did learn from Ben-Gurion: If you want to make decisions, you must first define the subject you want to decide upon. Those who wish to better the whole world in one fell swoop should go and write books. [applause]

It is necessary to work according to priorities, because each issue demands urgent treatment. If, for instance, people want electoral reform, a different coalition must be set up. I do not know whom to do this with: Shinuy? I am not sure MAPAM [United Workers Party] would be in favor of that or not, as it was often against this. Then there is the CRM. The religious would not join such a campaign, and because they would not join such a move, the Likud would not, either. This is why the change will not take place. We must call a spade a spade. Will the people judge us by our attendance at a rally? If the peace process works out, that is what we will be credited with. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen: We joined the national unity government and, contrary to all the rumors, we meant it. We tried to explore whether the Likud was ready to proceed, together with us, toward a peace process that was not philosophical, but realistic. There was the plan offered by Yitzhaq [Rabin]—which we actually had suggested before—a plan that called for elections and was tabled in September 1988, before the elections, and which was rejected by the Likud. We rejoiced when it ultimately embraced it. But let me say this unhesitatingly because this, too, is the truth: Shamir was exposed as the master of foot-dragging.

To those who ask: Why did you present a two-week deadline? I ask: Had we set a three-week time limit, would things have been different? Or a month? [heckling from the audience] Excuse me, who is it that says we could not tell? You do; fine. Well, as you do not know and we are celebrating Passover—and this is the holiday when you give the answer to the simpleton before he asks you—let me answer: First of all.... [interrupted by applause] No, no, that is exactly what I wanted to say: Shamir and Arens were against the Camp David accords. Did you hear that? Are you aware of that? I am asking you. Thank you. Shamir and Arens objected to the withdrawal from Lebanon. Did you know that? Shamir and Arens objected to negotiations with Jordan. Did you know that? Now Shamir and Arens—even though Arens formulated the response [to Baker], Shamir hindered its relay. So what is it that you want to know? Are we playing with fire here?

Well, then, the government reached a state in which it was paralyzed and could function no more. If we wanted a govenrment that merely occupies its seats but does nothing, we could have stayed put. Had we not set deadlines, we would have been setting deadlines nonetheless. We would have said time is immaterial, that we should not be stuck to timetables. I think as a result, things would have taken their own course, to our detriment, and would have left us behind or worked against us in the Arab world and the world at large. We had to take the lead so as not to be led by others, so that others cannot lead with a policy that works against us. We must not let that happen. Israel must keep the reins of the political initiative in its own hands, particularly as the Likud accepted it. But then again, it accepted it, but dragged its feet.

It is true we agreed if the government should collapse, we would go to elections. Instead, Shamir decided to dismiss me. When the rotation agreement was in force, the Likud constantly claimed Peres would not honor his word or the agreement. Let me ask you this: Who honored the agreement and who broke it? I, who observed the rotation agreement, or he who tried to fire me? [indistinct heckling from the crowd] Indeed, he fired me. But let us wait and see; the story is not over yet. [applause]

Friends: When, at the previous Central Committee meeting, we presented our course, we said we could not guarantee a narrow-based government would be established. We said there were three options: we either move to the opposition benches, move for elections, or set up a government. We did not ask to be paid by the hour. I think had we not acted as we did, we would have shown ourselves to be empty. Without acting as we did, the Labor Party's image may have improved, but it would have had no option and would have gone against its true nature. We are not a party that seeks a pleasant image. We are a party that has a true historic character, one that is not afraid of confronting the masses when necessary. After all, it is not our role only to please the people according to some passing whim; sometimes we also must oppose them. I have no idea what the people may have said when the Biltmore plan [Zionist plan presented in 1942 which demanded the abolition of the British White Paper limiting Jewish emigration to Palestine and upholding the Balfour plan that called for a Jewish homeland] was presented. I am not sure the forum called upon to vote on it was overwhelmed by a supportive majority. Nevertheless, that was a right decision.

Ben-Gurion said he had no idea what the people wanted; he knew what was best for the people. The best thing for the people is the truth, but what they want is the image, the pretense.

Let me say that today, too, the struggle is dramatic. Although the people are really split in half, this does not mean we do not need decisions to be made. I cannot agree to some things. One thing I cannot accept is that because the people are torn in half, we should let the minority rule. Why should we? If we are equally strong, why should the other side rule?

The other thing that does not seem right to me is that because the people are split, the nation should remain paralyzed and let everyone else play in our court. Since the nation is torn asunder, a decision must be made. I contend the decision should be made in the Knesset. It was no trick on the part of SHAS [Torah Obsering Sephardim] to abstain in the no-confidence vote in the Knesset, because that move was preceded by a highly impressive appearance by Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef on television. [applause] This is not monkey business [previous two words in English].

Perhaps unbeknownst to us, perhaps without all the election experts' awareness, a change occurred in one of the most important religious parties in Israel: SHAS.

Now let me add: Why did we want to make an alliance with the Likud? Only to promote the peace process. The moment we all reached the conclusion it is impossible to do so with the Likud anymore.... [changes thought] Incidentally, regarding the issue of the so-called defection: When a person defects from a group that holds a certain view, that is seen as an unusual move. If he turns his back on his own views, he is considered moral, as long as he does not shun the general framework. Let me ask you this: There were six or seven Likud ministers who said we should answer Baker in the affirmative. Why, actually, did such a moral, reasonable, and just man as Ehud Olmert—who wanted to give Baker a positive answer—think loyalty to the party and loyalty to a Cabinet seat is more important than the peace process and is the ultimate and supreme loyalty? Is this morality? What is this?

MK's shifted allegiances 21 times. It happened in all the Knessets, beginning from those led by Ben-Gurion down to those headed by Eshkol, Golda, and Begin. Some people even parachuted from nowhere, as in the case of Hilel Seidel [of the Independent Liberals]. Such things have happened. There is one more thing, although I think if people want to march toward peace—both at home and with outside elements—we must restore our partnership with the religious.

One of the most difficult things happening in Israel at the moment is the realignment. Ladies and gentlemen, it seems to me almost everyone and everything is changing; nothing remains as it was. Even the religious map is changing. Once it pertained particularly to the National Religious Party [NRP], but people seem to forget there was a time when it had 12 or even 15 Knesset seats, while now it has only four or five. [applause] New parties emerged: SHAS, Agudat Yisra'el, and Degel Hatora. It is not my intention to gloss over the differences between the religious sector and the nonreligious sector, or to pretend to ignore the pluralism of Israeli society. The question is whether we all agree on the Israeli concept and its manifestation. The question is how, in view of the different trends in Israeli society, can we live together.

Can anyone imagine democracy means only an electoral system? Democracy is a network of attitudes: first, between one man and his fellow man, then between one party and another. Can democracy exist without tolerance? Furthermore, is democracy without compromise possible? Can there be a democracy without it? Is a democracy possible without referring to peace, without a stand on peace? At no time in the history of the world did two democratic countries wage war against each another. Terror is born where there are no ballot boxes.

All this talk that democracy is nothing but some kind of mechanism for an electoral or ruling system is a total misconception. The question is how we deal with one another: religious with secular, secular toward the religious, how the right acts toward the left and the left toward the right—with shouts? With scorn, threats, or telephone calls in the middle of the night? The question is how Jews would deal with Arabs and vice versa. These relations are just as important as the democratic machine.

We are offering our religious comrades coexistence through mutual respect, consideration toward each other, tolerance, and an honorable attitude toward the values they hold dear on the one hand and the freedom we espouse. Such things have happened before and still do. We are not the only country with religious and secular populations. This is found all over the world. There is an ultraorthodox neighborhood in the United States called Williamsburg. In that neighborhood one can find Christian policemen on Shabbat, diverting traffic from entering the neighborhood on Shabbat, even though I have never heard that Shabbat is an official American rest day. Is this anything to be ashamed of? Did they offend anyone? I would like to understand why should something be acceptable in the United States and forbidden in Israel? I can see how people try to respect each other, and I know that both the religious and secular populations number people who tend to widen the rift. Where does this rift lead to? What future does it leave us? I am against religious or anti-religious coercion. I am against discrimination against religious people and vice versa.

Even settlements cost money. When we had to allocate some 60 or 70 million shekels to Kupat Holim, we had to allocate 40 million shekels for settlements. I did not sense much bitterness in the movement then. Why, why? We are turning over a new leaf, and I would like to state that our alliance with the religious parties, or more rightly our partnership, as it is not an alliance, is based first and foremost on something called greater understanding. We will respond fourfold to any tolerance shown by the religous side. In the name of my movement, I myself would request our members not to unnecessarily and publicly violate the sanctity of the Shabbat, and to denote the appropriate importance to the Jewish heritage, without coercion. [applause]

Second—and this is something that is once again being sorely tested today—two groups, one did not join the coalition and the second resigned from the coalition, because of a breach of trust by the prime minister. Why did Agudat Yisra'el not join the coalition? Because all the Likud ministers signed a document which Shamir later said they could send to a museum. Such a thing had never happened before in Israel. Can one rule without keeping one's word, or without any trust in words? Now, I am not trying to defend the second faction—what is it's name?—the Party for the Advancement of Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel. Why did this party resign from the government? Was it because of us? No, it was because promises to them were also broken.

It is not so easy when someone is told he is going to be a minister, he comes with his family, and then is told he is nothing. This is because the Likud has breached its agreement with them. They did not resign because of us. They resigned for their own reasons. Some of them also may have had some idea of reviving the Liberal option. We can negotiate with them. I certainly am willing to admit that sometimes the number 61 attributes a greater weight to 60. That is the way it is. In a democratic regime, Berl [Berl Katznelson, a former prominent ideologue and leader of the Labor Party] said, votes are not weighed—they are counted. In a democratic regime 61 versus 59 is a majority. If someone is frightened of constituting a majority, however, then I cannot help him. So why are we in politics? Avraham Sharir went through a very difficult time. He actually had to decide how much trust he had in the movement which the General Zionists [the precursor of the Liberal Party] joined. Now I would like to say they joined us because they know our word will be kept. [applause] From the time of Ben-Gurion until today, whether convenient or not, whether we are in the government or in the opposition.

I would like to say two things: We have voted consistently on the issue of the yeshiva students for 42 years, whether we were in the government or in the opposition. From the time of Ben-Gurion's tenure as defense minister up to a defense minister named Yitzhaq Rabin, we have held the same positions. I would like to say when we were in the opposition we voted for equating the allocations for religious education. I have no intention of portraying myself as the director of religious education. We have members who say the religious are bad administrators, but I would like to tell you a secret. Some of the religious believe we carry out a poor job in education. So what? They say they may have less of a drug and crime problem in their system. I do not know if that is true or not, but it may well be. It is not so simple.

I would like to explain the meaning of tolerance. Tolerance consists of adopting the same patience in your attitude to the drawbacks of your fellow man as toward your own deficiencies. That is the whole thing.

The third issue pertaining to our religious friends is the issue of the peace process. I would like to say fun can be made of everything. One can ask: Why are you going to Bene Beraq [an ultraorthodox suburb]? Are there not people living in Bene Beraq? I went to Bene Beraq, and met various sages, and people with extraordinary intellectual skills. We did not agree among us. So what? It was there, from them and in the synagogues, that I first heard such yearning for a peace process. Why should we denigrate this? I want to understand, would everything be alright if they were against us? A rabbi like 'Ovadiya Yosef—and I would like to say I held long and protracted talks with Rabbi Pinhas Menahem Alter, the chairman of the Agudat Yisra'el Central Committee, and it was a real delight: the profoundity, the honesty. I would like to tell you one more thing: Among us everyone must pass some tests. Many of us meet on Fridays and gossip a bit. A religious Jew must attend synagogue every Shabbat. It was not simple to change the positions of the worshippers at the synagogue.

There are people who went with us and then had an extremely unpleasant time in the synagogues on Shabbat, and were criticized in religious circles. We are not fighting to capitulate and accept the present state of affairs, but rather, to change it. There are people I have learned to respect. The Likud did not keep its word. We have 61 Knesset Members [MK's] who have signed with us, and I am convinced they will keep their word, just as we will keep our promises. I therefore believe we are about to turn over a new leaf. I have made positive and correct statements regarding the religious sector, especially about Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS. I would also like to say I also have been pleasantly surprised by the left-wing parties. It started off with a verbal cease-fire. It is very easy to wave two flags today—one for the PLO and the other calling for electoral reform—the general public would support them. I saw the nice photograph of Rabbi Feldman [former ultra-nationalistic rabbi who moderated his positions] and MK Yosi Sarid [from the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement] shaking hands. Everyone should be willing to extend his hand. Perhaps the left-wing will learn to change its attitude toward religion, and maybe the religious will take a new look at what they call the left-wing. We will be the standard bearers of this new trend for peace and further understanding. I have no way of saying that calling elections today—even though events may lead to this....[changes thought] Calling elections today may endanger the two most important things in our lives at this point: the momentum of immigration and its absorption into Israel, and the chance of turning the Middle East away from bitterness, rage, and hatred and once more toward peace. These were the reasons that motivated us to go to the government.

I am not promising anything will be easy. Nothing is in my pocket. I am not claiming the coming days will be easy, and that everyone will be patting our shoulder or reciting poetry. I am not promising any miracles. On the contrary, I promise a very profound national debate. The people are in agony, and I know in my heart the people who hold opposing views to my own are just as faithful to Eretz Yisra'el as I am. I am not speaking out of derision or hatred. I also am aware the aliyah [immigration] is no simple issue, and that we will have a serious argument with the Palestinians. Nothing will be easy as pie. What we have decided, however, pertains to Feuerberg's question: Where? Where is this country heading? Are we returning to yesterday's fears, or moving forward to tomorrow's chances? This is the crucial issue. Of course this is very hard, extremely hard—to marry something new, or perhaps simply annul our marriage with the past.

Let us stride forward, with a steady heart, without fear or derision, and without having an easy time of it. But let us take the right direction. We will lead and pay the price of leadership. We will start from tomorrow; we will not put things off or be evasive.

Incidentally, this matter of the election system: Why is it evasive? Do you know what was stipulated in the previous government's guideline, just so you will know what I am talking about. [Peres recites] The possibility of changing the governmental and electoral systems will be examined, with the aim of fortifying the country's democratic regime, of augmenting the government's ability to act, and of increasing the connection between the voters and those elected [from The Basic Policy Guidelines of the Government's Program, 22 December 1988; clause 32]. That was not evasive, was it? In a democratic regime it is not enough to support things that are right; one needs a majority. That is all. Give me the majority, and I will give you electoral reform. [applause] I say there is no majority.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a period in which we must all rally around, and it is the first time we and some segments of the ultraorthodox community have joined forces, and they are waiting to see how we will behave and relate to them—and this is the first time we are bringing such disparate things slightly closer together and introducing a better climate. This is not just a greater understanding—how do they put it? All the world is akin to a narrow bridge [An old saying which continues: and the main thing is to overcome one's fear], and in this case the narrow bridge is our reply to Baker—not because the reply is narrow, but because it is a bridge. Otherwise this saying is just poetry. As I stated earlier, it will not be easy, but we should not be afraid. We will succeed and be judged not by phrases, but by results. Anyone who wants results must take chances, must dare. He could be beaten down and fall. Someone who refuses to do anything.... [changes thought]. We took a risk and a dare because to do otherwise would be a treachery to our ideology and our future.

I know it is late, and I know some people here are waiting for the matza balls eaten at Pesah [laughter]—there are no matza balls here. There is a Pesah Seder. I would like to explain myself.

The current situation is such that we have the support of 61 Knesset members, and maybe more. Naturally, this support is made up of the Labor Party, plus five parties that have agreed to support us. All five parties want to join the government. I cannot add one without adding the others, otherwise an imbalance will be created. The reason for this is the fact a balance means not only doves and hawks, but also the religious and nonreligious; it also, in this case, includes female members. The way I see it, there is every chance that within a few weeks—two, three, or four weeks—we will have seven parties; the existing five and two more that will join the coalition.

Now I want to share a secret with you, under the condition that you do not leak this outside. [laughter] Every party is interested in ministerial portfolios. Are you surprised? Incidentally, almost all the parties want the same portfolios. Parties that have few members say they carry a heavy weight. Some have quantity to offer; others have both quantity and quality. We sat and discussed what to do. If I had formed the government today—as the Labor Party today has 11 ministers of the outgoing government—the way I see it, it deserves 15 to 16 ministers. This means that we could add four or five ministers today. Without distributing portfolios to other parties, however, we have reached the conclusion it would be better to work out the issue of portfolio distribution in two rounds.

Without distributing portfolios to other parties, we have reached the conclusion it would be better to work out the issue of portfolio distribution in two rounds. This time we will leave the existing nucleus. [applause and boos] We heard no boos two weeks ago! Two weeks ago we only had 11 [Cabinet members]. The message is peace and brotherhood! It is not only names and people. I wish to suggest at this stage that we leave in their posts the 11 party members who were members of the outgoing government. [applause] I will finalize the formation of the government within two to three weeks. I wish to unequivocally declare, and this is accepted by both Yitzhaq Rabin and myself—we worked together on this issue as well, and I am saying this openly because I want the movement to remain complete and united—that among the additions there will be at least one female member, two if possible. [applause]

As I said before, I have to present a government lineup that will include seven other parties. It is possible the current posts will be changed. Until now we saw fit to make only one change in the composition, which is to fire the outgoing finance minister and name him prime minister and foreign minister. [applause] All others remain in their posts and duties. This Central Committee will reconvene.... [changes thought] No, I am not nominating them because, the way I see it, if I do that, we will have no government. This should be understood. The message is that we will have a government more broad than what was expected. This also is a message for the people. [unidentified voice from the audience: Beilin will be foreign minister, what?] Did he steal anything from you? Is he not right in your eyes? I disqualify no one, and no one else will do that.

In any event, there will be four, five, and perhaps six [more ministers]. It depends on the quota we decide on, whether there will be three Knesset members per minister, or two and one half. Certainly there will be some new faces. As I have said before, first and foremost, a female member, and if possible even two. The proposed lineup, therefore, is as follows:

Shim'on Peres, prime minister and foreign minister. [applause]

I will read out the rest of the ministers in alphabetical order:

Rafi Edri, ecology and environmental protection minister; Hayim Bar-Lev, police minister; Mordekhay Gur, minister without portfolio; 'Ezer Weizman, science and technology minister; Gad Ya'aqobi, communications minister; Avraham Katz-'Oz, agriculture minister; Yitzhaq Navon, education and culture minister; Ya'aqov Tzur, health minister; Moshe Shahal, energy and infrastructure minister; and last but not least, Yitzhaq Rabin, defense minister. [applause]

To conclude, I would naturally rather present a full lineup of the whole government. But I have to remind you we still have tomorrow ahead of us. A hard and demanding day; a very dramatic one. I do not play it down. I know at least one more party with which we will negotiate tomorrow as well, and I must leave certain things open. Still, only one month ago it seemed like a dream, a nonexistent chance. Today there is a chance. Let us all join forces to make it happen. [applause]

U.S. Senate Delegation Visits; Resolution Viewed

JN1104062890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] There are many ways to deal with the U.S. Senate's Resolution Number 106 purporting to grant Israel full control over Jerusalem. The simplest way is to ignore it as an utterly useless and immoral act that has won for the U.S. Senate contempt from more than one quarter. As a matter of fact, this was not the first time that the Senate had put its feet in its mouth nor will it be the last. One reason why the Senate went as far as it did, in an open defiance of official and long standing American policy on Jerusalem as well as that of international law and norms, may have been recognition of its own limitations on forging American foreign policy. In other words, the U.S. Senate has taken for granted that its ridiculous pronouncements on Jerusalem are academic and in the final analysis the status of Jerusalem will never be determined in the U.S. Senate. Another way to confront the resolution is to have Arab governments, parliaments and political institutions hold the U.S. Senate accountable for exceeding the law and ethics on the issue of Jerusalem and to ask the simple question: Since when do American congressmen have the legal or moral authority to decide the fate of issues in a manner contrary to international and national norms. In reprisal for the move, if reprisals were the name of the game in such instances, an Arab parliament could stand up to declare the U.S. Senate an outlaw body that stuck its nose in a matter which it is not entitled or equipped to deal with.

A third course to take vis-a-vis the American lawmakers would be to seize upon the opportunity of the visiting U.S. Senate delegation to express the country's anger and indignation at their House's unwarranted interference in the sensitive subject of Jerusalem. Hospitality and courtesy are one thing and swallowing a big insult is another. Jordanians have not asked in the past nor are they likely to ask any individual American not to come here and visit. But such hospitality should not prevent us from speaking frankly and honestly with visitors, be they individuals or U.S. senators. Those Jordanians who will meet with their [as published] senators will probably supply them with literature on the question of Jerusalem and argue for legitimate Arab rights in the city. They may even express sympathy with the mechanics of U.S. electioneering. Still, they should also express our people's indignation in no uncertain terms at the Senate's infamous decision. After all it is the whole American credibility which is at stake here, not to mention the U.S. Congress' intellectual worthiness. The U.S. Senate must know that resolution or no resolution by the U.S. Senate, the Arab side will continue its legitimate struggle to liberate Jerusalem from Israel's occupation.

King Addresses Royal Commission on Charter

JN1004210090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1803 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Speech by King Husayn to members of the royal commission appointed to draw up the "National Charter," delivered at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 10 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; Your Excellency Ahmad 'Ubaydat [chairman of the royal commission], dear brothers and sisters: I greet you with great love and pride and with complete sincerity and appreciation. I welcome you to Basman Palace, the home of all Jordanians. I am pleased to be having this meeting to start on another new course toward parliamentary democracy. I am fully confident we will perform this task with awareness and responsibility, so we can successfully complete the course, as we completed the previous one. That course began with the general parliamentary elections in November 1989, followed by the selection of Senate members, and ending with the new government's winning the deputies' vote of confidence on the strength of its policy statement that stemmed from the letter of designation.

As for the second course, which we now begin, it will prepare for the resumption of political pluralism, which is the other cornerstone of democracy. [passage omitted]

Democracy is not a goal in itself. It is a way of life and a means to a general good whose substance is the people and whose goal is serving them. If people use it properly, it will yield benefits and reap good things for them. If they abuse it, it will yield evil and bring harm to them or others. Those who colonized most of the Asian and African peoples for hundreds or scores of years are the most civilized democratic countries. Those who occupy the land of Palestine and practice oppression, injustice, and terrorism against its people are members of a state with a democratic system. Perhaps this serves to remind us democracy has an ugly face too, which is the face that appears when its practitioners deviate from humanitarian principles and values in their dealings with other people, or when they give priority to their narrow interests over the common and general good of the state. [passage omitted]

Those who think I was personally satisfied with the situation that prevailed during that period—the period when there was no elected Parliament—or that I was happy to place most of the burden on my shoulders, are wrong. Without comprehensive, institutional participation, I had to exert great effort to monitor general trends and to review every stand and activity using every available official, media, and personal means so I could be guided by them and deduce from them the appropriate positions and safe policies to serve the general good, whether in consolidating national security or continuing the march of progress and development.

In other words, as an individual, I had to try and perform the duties of the absent institution as long as that was the only option for performing my duty under the dire circumstances we were going through, in addition to all my pan-Arab and international burdens and responsibilities, which I was, and still am carrying.

At that time, I had nothing to look forward to other than the day when I would see the completion of institutional participation and the representatives of the people contributing their share of participation in sharing responsibility and decisionmaking.

Then came the decision to disengage legal and administrative ties, which set the appropriate circumstances for achieving that ambition and performing this duty. The disengagement of legal and administrative ties unlocked the door leading to general elections. The April incidents pointed out the necessity for renewing the social contract. Perhaps you remember the first definite indication I made concerning a national charter was immediately after the April incidents, since these incidents revealed some facts, the most important of which was that our society was in a state of socio-economic tension. This is not a situation confined to Jordan; many developing or developed world societies have gone or are going through such an experience for one reason or another.

It was natural all philosophical, political, and social groups should direct their attention to this painful situation to diagnose it and its causes and to express opinions on how to cope with it.

True, these activities have led to some shared conclusions concerning various aspects of the problem; however, there was disagreement and conflict about other aspects of it, revealing the existence of a tangible intellectual chaos, whose roots go back to differences among these groups on basic procedures and the higher objectives of the state.

Accordingly, I was of the opinion that addressing the problem through parliamentary elections, for which we already had announced plans, was not sufficient. It would have meant going into parliamentary life with contradictory or diverse beliefs regarding some of the foundations and constants underlying the state. It would certainly have paralyzed our ability to solve our problems and to take on the challanges and serious dangers we would be meeting under our country's fateful circumstances—circumstances of which you are aware.

In the interest of keeping to the right path and securing the tools of success and protection; and for democracy to be a means of construction and pooling of energies, an incentive to release talents and instill vitality in individuals and institutions, and a bulwark for our national security; it was necessary to forge a wide, flexible framework for national action—and that is the charter. As I have stated, the charter is not a substitute for the Constitution, but is in harmony with it and is inspired by its visions and national concepts that steer the state and constitute general controls for the state's various activities in politics, economics, security, social affairs, and culture. [passage omitted]

If we look to the past, specifically three decades ago, we are bound to conclude the Jordanian Constitution, specifically in Article 16, gave the citizens the right to set up societies and political parties—provided their goals are legitimate, their means are peaceful, and their rules are not counter to the Constitution. Licenses were given to found societies and political parties at that time out of our belief in democractic practice and a commitment to constitutional provisions. Without going into details or dwelling on this era of our political life, the end result of that experience was less than satisfactory. It is sufficient to point out two things which are well-known to our contemporaries:

The first of these is that most of the political organizations of that time failed to be bound by legitimate internationally recognized controls when the doctrines of their home bases were governed by the doctrines and instructions of their leaders overseas. The second is that each of those parties acted at the time as if it represented truth exclusively, and that it alone had the wisdom to serve the public interest. Leaders of those parties in that era overlooked the most important component of democracy, namely that no one may claim a monopoly of truth and that such a contention is a form of fanaticism that leads to the destruction of democracy, rather than consolidating or safeguarding it. This is because democracy is built on dialogue and the action of the state; in terms legislation, decisionmaking, doctrine, and policy are the end product of this dialogue. Because, as I said, the prevailing practice then was that each faction believed it alone had a monopoly of truth, each party saw in the other parties foes and enemies. Some of them even went so far as to view the regime, which had secured for them the democratic umbrella, an enemy that had to be liquidated.

Thus political action turned from an activity serving the community under democracy into one bent on reaching power at the expense of democracy and the true interests of the citizen. In their pursuit of power, they justified to themselves the breaking of another control of political pluralism, namely, abstention from violence. They vied among themselves in how to infiltrate the ranks of the Armed Forces in the belief it was the shortest route to their goals. I need not remind you of the negative consequences of embroiling the Army in politics in countries where this was allowed to happen. Hence, it was imperative to stick to the principle of maintaining a professional Army insulated from political conflicts to act as a shield for the entire homeland and the Arab nation at large. As it has always been, this will remain a most sacrosanct principle for us. I believe we are all agreed the end result of that experience was grievous damage to the country, people, and parties themselves. Had everyone managed to avert or preempt that damage, we would have saved ourselves the many years without pluralism— pluralism I always have regarded as a guarantor of national unity, whose threads make up our one fabric, even if they are of different colors. [passage omitted]

The principles and aims of the Great Arab Revolt always have been and still are the broad framework for pan-Arab thought. Therefore, the Arab nation's battles for more than 70 years have been to defend this thought against all forms of disease; be they parochial, sectarian, racist, or dilutionist [tadhwibiyah], given the fact striking at pan-Arab thought is the necessary first step toward striking at the Arab order.

Jordan's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and their just cause is part of its pan-Arab commitment. It is a historic, fateful commitment. Jordan will continue to support with all its means the Palestinian people's struggle under their national leadership represented by the PLO until they realize their legitimate rights of freedom and independence on their national soil. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, brothers and sisters, I am pleased to entrust you, in the name of the Arab people of Jordan, with the sublime task we promised our people we would implement—namely, the drafting of a national charter around which everyone will rally, a charter that will embody the basic principles on which the Kingdom is established according to the provisions and spirit of the Constitution; a charter that will be the true and practical expression of our civilized nature and a reflection of our deep awareness of the lessons learned from our experiment and the experiments of the others. This charter will consider the requirements of development and national security and will form a protective shield for democracy. It will be the pointer that defines the path, the yardstick by which we measure the correctness of our direction, and the guide that various state bodies, both the government and popular organizations, will follow in their solutions and policies and in plans that are needed for progress, development, and construction on both the national and pan-Arab levels. It will be a charter required by the genuine interests of the people and imposed by the challenges of the age, by Jordan's position; and by human interaction, scientific progress, and world changes. [passage omitted]

The problems and challenges that face us are real problems and challenges. They are not illusions, figments of the imagination, or mere words. They are material facts; objective problems related to Jordan's resources, position, and pan-Arab stands. Our people are living these problems and are looking forward to solving them and facing them—not to only talking about them, circumventing them, or drawing attention away from them by imaginary issues that distance Jordan from its interests and from building a peaceful and prosperous future for its people. Moreover, we should remember the entire people and the whole of the state, with its various institutions—executive, legislative, or other authorities—are all in the same boat. No one will be allowed to make a hole in this boat.

God grant you success in bearing this responsibility, given your education and awareness; your true affiliation, truthfulness, and ability to make sacrifices; and your ability to carry out this responsibility with all possible speed and care. We are awaiting your good work and noble efforts to present them to the people, the source of all powers. I hope this people will continue to inspire me and you with their pride, glory, and power to serve their interests and future generations. For this is the real protection of correct and sound democracy; and this is how we can close the door in the face of all the dangers that are overwhelming our march, and the unified national fabric.

I pray God to guide our steps on this path and to grant us strength to realize his desires. We rely on God. God's blessings and peace be upon you.

Freed Hostages Depart Beirut Airport

NC1004174290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] French hostage Jacqueline Valente, her companion, and her daughter left Beirut for their country aboard a special military plane this afternoon. The plane landed at the military base at Beirut Airport at 1630. Georgina Dufoix, an official of the French Red Cross, was aboard the plane. French Ambassador Rene Ala, French Embassy staff, Beirut Airport chief Khalid Sa'b, and officers of the military base at the airport saw Ms. Valente off. She declined to make any statements. Ambassador Ala said: I am very happy that they have been released. I hope all the other hostages will be freed. We thank all those who contributed to their release.

The French Red Cross official expressed her joy over the release of the French hostages, and expressed the hope that the other hostages will also be freed.

Fatah Revolutionary Council on Hostage Release

NC1004124290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Despite the accelerating political developments in the local area, the news on the release of French woman Jacqueline Valente, her friend Fernand Houtekins, and their child Sophie-Liberte gained the attention of Western observers and quarters. The issue was widely covered by the news agencies from the minute they were released at 0825 today. [passage omitted]

In a statement to our radio by Walid Khalid [official spokesman for Fatah—the Revolutionary Council], who supervised the release operation, he said the release of the remaining four hostages from the passengers of the ship Silco depends on the seriousness of the Belgian Government's position. He said that direct negotiation are under way and emphasized that they are all well and in good health.

Through our radio, Khalid made an earnest appeal to those holding the two employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross to play a humanitarian role in this regard. He declined to give a direct answer to a question on the fate of the second son of Jacqueline Valente, adding that it is up to his mother to talk about this issue.

Further on Condition for Belgians' Release

LD1004202190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1802 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 10 (KUNA)—The official spokesman of Fatah—the Revolutionary Council Movement called Tuesday for [word indistinct] release of two Swiss employees held captive in South Lebanon for six months, now urging Belgium to deal seriously with negotiations under way with the aim of releasing four Belgians.

In an interview with the local broadcasting station "Sawt al-Sha'b" spokesman Walid Khalid said that his organisation had availed "normal living conditions" for the French and Belgium hostages held from the vessel Silco. The same organisation has earlier Tuesday released three French hostages and handed them over to the French Embassy in West Beirut.

Khalid added that the release of the three came in response to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call. He added their release was a "manifestation of the humanitarian concepts our organisation has been struggling for and in support of our peoples' masses who are in a revolt in Palestine. Khalid added that al-Qadhdhafi's call "received full response from our movement due to the high esteem in which we hold the Libyan leader."

Four Belgians are still held hostage with the Palestinian organisation since kidnapping them on November 1987 while aboard a vessel off occupied Gaza coast. Khalid indicated the release of the remaining hostages will be conditional on releasing the Palestinian Nasir Sa'id who is serving a life sentence for launching an attack on a Jewish synagogue in 1980. The Palestinian official said that talks are underway with a Belgian delegation presently visiting Beirut.

He would not elaborate on this issue. Khalid expressed hope that "today's step would be an incentive for other governments whose nationals are still in captivity". He added that he had carried out a round of talks with the Belgian delegation, "and we can say that the delegation is showing more seriousness". Khalid added that the four Belgians are enjoying good health and regular medical care is provided to them, as well.

Ja'ja' Says Lebanese Forces To Remain Separate

NC1104063390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has explained that the imposition of legal authority in areas under the control of the Lebanese Forces may take a few weeks, explaining that transferring military authority will take a week, and transferring administrative authority will take two weeks. Dr. Ja'ja' also announced that the negotiations with President Ilyas al-Hirawi have begun to yield results.

In an interview with REUTER last night, Dr. Ja'ja' reiterated his call on the legal authority to take over the areas under the Lebanese Forces' control. He stressed that President al-Hirawi and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud must not undermine the Lebanese Forces and must agree that they remain a separate military force.

Al-Hirawi Chairs Cabinet Meeting 10 Apr

NC1004180890 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired a cabinet meeting today. The cabinet decided to appoint Staff Commodore Elie Hayik as commander of the Jabal Lubnan district and placed Staff Brigadier General George Harruq at the disposal of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. The cabinet also approved a number of administrative appointments.

Speaking during the meeting, President al-Hirawi stressed the need to maintain the unity of the military establishment and its national character, which is above factional discrimination and personal loyalties. On the occasion of the forthcoming Easter holiday, the president wished all the Lebanese an end to their suffering and the return of serenity and peace.

Prime Minister Salim al-Huss emphasized that the government is anxious to open the way for every positive development and provide all available means for legitimacy to assume its rightful position and carry out its responsibility in serving the homeland and people.

Interior Minister Al-Khazin Arrives in Bkirki

NC1104095090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has been meeting with Interior Minister Shaykh Ilyas al-Khazin since 1100 today. Al-Khazin was met upon arrival in Bkirki by a number of his supporters, as well as by attorney George Kassab, chief of the Phalangist Party Kasrawan District Branch.

Al-Khazin will go from Bkirki to the municipal hall in Zuq Mikha'il, where he will chair a meeting of the mayors of towns in the region and some officials.

Minister al-Khazin arrived at the al-Barbarah roadblock at 1030. He was received by Captain Bahij Watfa, commander of the Jubayl Gendarmarie, and delegations from the Kasrawan region.

Complaint to UN Issued on Israeli Acts in South

NC1004150690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs has asked the Lebanese permanent mission to the United Nations to lodge a strongly worded urgent complaint with the UN General Secretariat and Security Council over the recent Israeli attacks on the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Shukin, Mayfadun, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and the Kafr Tibnit and Mazra'at al-Jisr areas. The shelling of these villages resulted in the death of one citizen and the injury of eight others. Lebanon reserves the right to invite the Security Council to convene if these attacks are repeated.

Israeli Position in Hasbayya Attacked

NC1104081790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] A unit of the National Resistance Front attacked a position manned by Israeli troops and a number of their agents on the Kawkaba ridges in Hasbayya region this morning. The National Resistance fighters and the Israelis and their agents engaged in fierce fighting with various types of weapons for 20 minutes. The Israeli position suffered heavy losses in life and materiel.

Intermittent Sniper Fire Reported in Eastern Area

NC1004152490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The cease-fire agreement reached at 0930 today was not immediately observed by 'Awn's gunmen. At present, intermittent sniper fire is being directed at the Lebanese Forces positions on the newly created combat lines on the Kasrawan and Beirut fronts. During the afternoon these lines were the target of machine gun and rocket fire from 'Awn's gunmen, especially in al-Barjawi and on the al-Nab'a-al-Judaydah line. Two B-7 shells fell in al-Ashrafiyah shortly after 1530. [passage omitted]

Amal-Hizballah Clashes in Southern Suburb

NC1004152890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving machine guns and rockets are taking place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in several areas of the Southern Suburb. Hizballah sources accused Amal of causing the situation in al-Shiyah to escalate by shelling the residential areas there with B-10 and mortar rounds. According to the same Hizballah sources, the Amal Movement also shelled al-Gubayrah, particularly the residential quarters in the Sadr al-'Ammar area.

Further Clashes Reported

NC1104101690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Reports say that violent fighting between Amal and Hizballah has been taking place in the town of Ba'labakk since the morning, with both sides using machine guns, RPG's, and artillery. Similar clashes are taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

'Comprehensive' Peace With Guarantees Sought

JN1004155690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Robert Dole, Republican minority leader in the U.S. Senate, announced in Damascus yesterday that during his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, he sensed Syria was determined to achieve a just peace in the Middle East. Two weeks ago, a similar announcement was made by former Democratic President Jimmy Carter following his talks with leader al-Asad. These two announcements, the first by the leader of the current ruling Republican Party in the United States and the second by a former Democratic President in the White House, should be carefully studied.

Following their talks with this country's leaders, the high ranking U.S. officials announced their belief Syria was genuinely eager to achieve a just peace in this region. This refutes the Zionists' numerous allegations that failure to achieve such a peace is due to the position of this or that Arab party. As leader al-Asad said during his meeting with Dole, Syria has supported a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict since the seventies—a solution that can produce a comprehensive, not just a partial peace, through an international conference and on the basis of specific guarantees. But Israel always has opposed such a comprehensive peace, preferring unilateral settlements. Israel also rejects the international conference, because it does not want to commit itself to any guarantees.

Syria's insistence on providing guarantees for such a comprehensive peace—which should be arrived at through an international conference—is based on its eagerness to establish a lasting and deep-rooted peace, while Israel's rejection of these guarantees is based on its belief such international guarantees will end its expansionist plans to fulfill the dream of Greater Israel.

Hence, any talk about guarantees constitutes the real test of the seriousness of peace efforts. The party objecting to these guarantees does not want a lasting and just peace, but temporary settlements pending the appropriate time for implementing its future expansionist plans.

The whole world knows the Arabs are serious and honest in their desire to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in this region—a region that has suffered greatly from wars and disasters as a result of Israel's expansionist ambitions. Israel has proven more clearly than ever it is the major obstacle to peace, because it opposes that peace by virtue of its nature and expansionist plans.

Finally, how can the Arabs accept peace without guarantees while Israeli leaders talk every day about Biblical Israel, bringing in new immigrants, and planning to settle the newcomers in the occupied Arab territories after displacing the Arabs from their lands?

Al-Shar' Denies Talking With Israeli Newspaper

PM1004095590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Did Not Talk to HADASHOT and Israel's Game Is Exposed"]

[Excerpt] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT— Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has denied giving an interview to the Israeli paper HADASHOT when he stopped over in Paris.

Explaining the matter to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Shar' said: All there is to it is that after my meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at the French Foreign Ministry, I found a large number of reporters waiting outside the building.

He added: The reporters asked me some questions, and I answered them without addressing any newspaper in particular. While in Paris, I made no statements to any newspaper other than the statements I made to a large number of reporters after coming out of the French Foreign Ministry.

Commenting on the Israeli paper's claim, Minister al-Shar' said: What the Israeli media are doing is part of a campaign against Arab officials to stop them making statements against Israel. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on Political Situation

LD0804062490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, Apr. 7, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan today received a Spanish T.V. team, as well as Abbas Rasheed correspondent of daily MUSLIM of Pakistan and Aqbal Chowdary, reporter of daily OBSERVER of Bangladesh for an interview at the Presidential Palace.

President Najibullah replied to the questions posed by the said journalists in connection with the military-political situation in the country, seeking ways for peaceful solution of the Afghan issue, successes achieved by the State of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] during the past year, draft of creation peace front of Afghanistan as well as it's goals and prospects, ensurance of peace in the RA, efforts and measures of the RA state for attaining a nation-wide peace, materialization of national reconciliation policy, gains of the national recognition policy, implementation of Salam operation and return of refugees.

Soviet POW Handed Over to Ambassador in Kabul

LD1004165490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Soviet soldier Aleksey Tikhonov, who was captured in the summer of 1986 by the Afghan opposition and released in the course of combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan on 8 March 1990 in Parvan Province, was handed over this morning by Dr. Abdul Baqi Samandari, deputy foreign minister, to Boris N. Pastokhov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

In the ceremony, the deputy foreign minister said: The Republic of Afghanistan is making every effort for the release of other Soviet POW's who are under detention of the Afghan opposition. The Afghan Government has no claims against the soldier. In response, the Soviet Union ambassador noted: We express our gratitude for the efforts of esteemed Najibullah's government, Afghan Armed Forces, and its people for the release of the Soviet Union's POW's who are in captivity of the Afghan opposition.

Attempts 'To Neutralize' Pakistan 'Attacks'

LD0904192190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] During the last four days the units and companies of Kabul garrison's general command have carried out a series of mopping up operations around Kabul Province to neutralize attacks by Pakistani-linked extremists and to clean up the area.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that during the operations, 47 armed extremists were killed and another 102 were injured. Also 80 enemy rocket missiles, one surface to surface launching unit, one BM-20 unit, and 30 assorted weapons were destroyed. In addition, a convoy carrying weapons and ammunition for the enemy was destroyed.

Battles, Casualties in Provinces Reported

LD1004064290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 9, BAKHTAR—In the past four days, 397 enemies were either killed or wounded in a counter-attack carried out by the detachments of the Armed Forces in Khowst Grand District of Paktia Province, several districts of Nangarhar province and Qandahar Provinces, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent. Meanwhile, nine army personnel and eleven civilians were killed and twenty seven wounded including 13 civilians due to the enemy's attack by heavy weapons on the security posts of these provinces during the same period. A large quantity of assorted weapons were also recovered during the operations from the enemy.

The joint forces of the enemy in the past four days fired with heavy weapons on some military detachments of Khowst Grand District, as a result of which four army personnel and one civilian was killed and fifteen including some children injured. In the counter-attack by the detachments of the Armed Forces 310 enemies were either killed or wounded.

Similarly, the enemy attacked on several army detachments in several parts of Nangarhar Province as a result of which three militarymen and three civilians were killed. The detachments of the Armed Forces responded with a counter-attack as a result of which fifty three extremists were either killed or wounded.

Likewise, in Qandahar Province two armymen and seven civilians were killed and one was wounded. However, in the counter-attack carried out by the government Armed Forces thirty four enemies were either killed or wounded.

According to another report, the organs of the Ministry of State Security has bought today a BM-12 unit and American surface-to-surface rocket, Sacker 30 [as received], from the opposition group attached to Rabbani extremist group in Shakardara District, Kabul Province.

Rebels Reportedly Down Afghan Jet, Capture Pilot

BK1004121190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 10 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels shot down an Afghan jet and arrested its pilot, who later died in retaliatory bombing around the beleaguered eastern garrison town of Khowst, resistance sources said

Tuesday [10 April]. Fighting for the control of the strategic garrison, 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Pakistan's northwestern border, has intensified since a fresh guerrilla offensive over the weekend.

The sources said mujahidin gunners also shelled the airport, destroying one military vehicle and damaging the facility.

The small Afghan town, besieged by rebels for the past several months, is supplied by helicopter. It became vulnerable after the resistance captured the Towr Ghar Hills, some six to eight kms (three to five miles) away in a March attack.

The mujahidin sources said the plane, hit by a U.S.-made Stinger missile, crashed into the rebel-held area on Monday. They said the pilot bailed out and was captured, but that he was killed when a jeep transporting him to the headquarters at field commander Jalaluddin Haqqani's camp in Miranshah was hit in repeated air raids. They said that they doubted that the pilot was an Afghan, but they did not give his nationality.

Rebel Arms Convoy Captured in Ambush; 5 Captured

LD1004180990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Nangarhar Province State Security officials captured in an ambush on 8 April, in the area of Gamberi Dag, four armed extremists and one Pakistani citizen along with a large amount of arms and ammunition.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports: The waylaying took place along the supply line of the extremists. As a result, nine vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition and several escort vehicles were destroyed. Nine horses and mules loaded with arms and ammunition have also been captured by the security forces.

Ministerial Council Discusses Culture, Mass Media

LD1104063690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 10, BAKHTAR—The periodical session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers was held here today presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, the committee's chairman. The session assessed the work of the Ministry of Information and Culture and the mass media under the present condition. The session instructed the said ministry to take additional measures for the improvement of museums, preservation of historical relics, national archives, national gallery and public libraries all over the country, Radio Afghanistan external services as well as state press.

Moreover, the Council of Ministers in its today session instructed the respective bodies to fulfil their assigned duties within the time frame given to them for taking care of the affairs related to the supervision of handicapped and martyrs survivals. The session also approved the draft rule on transporation, distribution of aided good to the repatriates as well as their accomodation.

The Council of Ministers also discussed and made necessary decisions on certain socio-economic affairs.

India

'Subversives' Kill Two Remaining Hostages

BK1104035390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The Kashmir University Vice Chancellor Professor Mushirul Haq and his personal secretary Abdul Ghani have been killed by subversives. Their bullet-ridden bodies were found late last night from the Airport Road in Srinagar. As reported earlier, the terrorists killed the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] Factory General Manager Mr. H.L. Khera yesterday. All three persons were kidnapped on Friday in Srinagar in two different incidents.

The state governor has condemned the killings and announced an ex-gratia release of one lak rupees and a job for an adult member of each family. In his condolence message, Mr. Jagmohan desribed Prof. Mushirul Haq as an outstanding scholar of Islamic studies and a brave nationalist.

Meanwhile, the security forces have intensified their drive to nab the killers of Prof. Haq, Mr. Ghani and Mr. Khera. Over 300 raids were conducted during the last two days and 38 subversives arrested. They include a hard-core terrorist whose identity has not been disclosed. One terrorist was killed in the firing by security forces in (?Harvel) yesterday when he attacked a party of security forces during its search operations.

The body of the slain HMT General Manager H.L. Khera arrived in Chandigarh by a special aircraft from Srinagar late last night. The body was received at the airport by the Union Railway and Kashmir Affairs Minister Mr. George Fernandes and others. The cremation takes place in Chandigarh later today. [passage omitted]

Singh Condemns Killings

BK1104092990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said that no efforts will be spared to nab the killers of Kashmir University vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq; his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani; and the HMT general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera. He said that the drive against subversives will continue. As reported earlier, the bullet-ridden bodies of the kidnapped were found at two places in Srinagar yesterday.

The prime minister, Mr. Singh, and several other leaders condemned the killings of the three innocent people. In his condolence message, the prime minister said they have laid down their lives in the service of our country. He said the dastardly killing of these innocent people should be condemned by all. Mr. V.P. Singh described Mushirul Haq as a man of great erudition who made commendable contribution to Islamic studies. Mr. Khera was a conscientious worker who braved all odds in the valley and fell victim to the acts of terrorism. The prime minister has offered his deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

'Massive Manhunt' Launched

BK1104120390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces, who have launched a massive manhunt for the killers of the Kashmir University vice chancellor, his personal secretary, and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] general manager, have arrested more than 25 subversives since yesterday [10 April].

The curfew continued in Srinagar and other towns of the valley for the sixth day today.

Official sources said more than 200 people have been arrested since Friday [6 April] when combing operations began for the subversives. The sources said that during interrogation, the arrested subversives confessed that they have received arms training in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Singh Says Pakistan 'Encouraging Insurgency'

BK1004153990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 10 (AFP)—Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh charged Pakistan Tuesday [10 April] with encouraging insurgency in India and warned that Islamabad would have to pay a "very heavy" price.

He also urged Indians to be "psychologically prepared" for a war with Pakistan and said New Delhi would have to review its nuclear options.

In his strongest anti-Pakistan statement during four months in office, Mr. V.P. Singh told Parliament that India had the capability to "inflict a very heavy cost for Pakistan's territorial goals against India." The 58-year-old premier was referring to Pakistan's alleged support for a Muslim secessionist campaign in Kashmir which has left almost 400 people dead so far this year.

India and Pakistan have disputed Kashmir ever since independence from British rule in 1947, when the territory's Hindu maharaja decided to accede to India. The two countries have fought two of their three wars over the dispute.

New Delhi has accused Islamabad of arming and training Muslim separatists who have in recent weeks stepped up their bloody campaign to end Indian rule in Kashmir. Pakistan has denied the charge, but supported Kashmiris' right of self-determination.

Mr. V.P. Singh said India was telling Pakistan that "you will not get away with it.

"You will have to pay a very high price for it, and we have the capability to inflict this cost (on Pakistan)," he said.

The prime minister, whose critics have charged him with not being hard enough on Islamabad's alleged interference in Kashmir, asked Indians to be "psychologically prepared" for another armed conflict with Pakistan. He said the Pakistan Government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was whipping up hysteria over Kashmir, warning that this could produce a "momentum and pressure" that may lead to war.

Ms. Bhutto has recently echoed the willingness of her father, executed Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, to fight a "1,000-year war" over Kashmir. Mr. V.P. Singh said those who spoke of a "1,000-year war should give a thought to whether this would last even for 1,000 hours." The Indian premier said Pakistan's strategy was to avoid a direct armed conflict with India, but to use insurgency as a weapon.

"If the situation is ripe, then Pakistan may even make a limited intervention with or without (army) uniforms to achieve its territorial goals without the price of a war," he said.

He said Pakistan had doubled the strength of its army, increased its air force by 2-1/2 times and the navy by three times over the past 18 years. He referred to Pakistan's alleged nuclear weapons programme and added: "We would have to take a second look at our nuclear policy, and our scientists have the capability (to produce nuclear weapons)."

The statement followed repeated charges by the opposition Congress (I) party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that the government was not being hard enough on Pakistan. The Congress (I)'s policy-making working committee on Saturday viewed a video film showing Ms. Bhutto calling repeatedly for freedom for Indian Kashmir. Mr. Gandhi said the Pakistan Government did not have the "guts to talk like the way Ms. Benazir Bhutto is doing now" when he was in power.

Warns Pakistan on 'Anti-Indian' Acts

BK1004161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has strongly warned Pakistan not to continue with its anti-Indian activities, otherwise it will have to pay a heavy price. He told the Lok Sabha today that the Pakistan Government should know India has the capability to inflict a heavy price and they cannot get away from it.

Intervening in the discussion on the budgetary demands of the Defense Ministry, Mr. V.P. Singh said Pakistan has been using insurgency and infiltration as tool for achieving its territorial goals. Their strategy is to inflame the people inside our country through infiltrators and terrorists. They have done this in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. They may also make an intervention by their men with or without uniform. He asserted that if there is any such conflict, India will not stop until our forces achieve our objective. He pointed out that our Armed Forces are fully prepared for any eventuality and in case of a longer conflict, it will be more favorable to India considering geographical and other factors. Pakistan, on the other hand, lacks depth.

Referring to Pakistan going nuclear or near nuclear, the prime minister said in such a case India will have to match Pakistan's capability and our nuclear policy may require a second look. He said we are quite capable of exercising the option, but it would be a sad thing as our policy is to use the nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes.

The prime minister said India will not mince words when its national interests are involved and said that those who talk of a 1,000-year war should ponder if they can last even a 1,000-hour conflict with India.

The prime minister said while our defense forces are ready and hard, people cannot have soft options. He called upon the people to steel themselves psychologically to cope with such a situation. The fundamentalist orientation of Pakistan's defense forces and the frenzy deliberately being built up in that country may itself lead to an armed conflict even though the Pakistan Government may not have bargained for it.

He regretted Pakistan's attempt to undermine the Simla agreement and expressed the hope that saner counsel will prevail. He also expressed satisfaction that Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue have not succeeded.

Referring to other neighbors, the prime minister said on the whole there is some improvement or signs of improvement with our relationships with China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. He however referred to the possibility of Sri Lankan militant Tamil groups finding a foothold in Tamil Nadu.

About the global situation, he said the tremendous changes taking place all over the world have vindicated India's steadfast policy of nonalignment and peace. However, our defense and foreign policy perceptions have to take into account all these changes.

In his brief reply, the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, said the work on the light combat aircraft project is almost over and two prototypes of the advanced fighter plane are ready. The house later passed the demands for grants of the ministry by voice vote.

Earlier, during the discussion, the members urged the government to reassess the threat perception the country is facing. They said there is need to to set up a national security council to evolve suitable strategies.

Prime Minister Speaks on Defense Budget

BK1104084990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has underlined the need to take a holistic approach to defense which will include external affairs, finance, and internal security. In this context, he referred to the proposal for a national security council but clarified that it will not undermine the system of union cabinet. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was intervening in a discussion on budgetary demands of the Defense Ministry in Lok Sabha yesterday. He said there is a need to have a 20-year perspective plan for defense projecting the future requirements and also a 10-year plan as a weapon system takes a long time to develop. Five-year plans will be formulated according to these medium- and long-term plans.

Referring to a modest increase in the defense allocation, Mr. V.P. Singh pointed out that the strength of the Pakistani Army has been doubled and the Navy trebled in the last 18 years. There has also been a two and half fold increase in Pakistan's Air Force during the period. Moreover, the defense budget of the country has remained almost static. And it means we have been spending less, taking in view the inflation and cost escalation factors.

Comments on Regional Issues

BK1104094490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that the government will not compromise with the antinational elements bent upon wrecking the unity of the country. Addressing the first meeting of the newly constituted National Integration Council in New Delhi today, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and no force, either external or internal, will be permitted to alter the position. The prime minister said the government will do its utmost to protect the people from acts of terrorism and violence by the antinational elements.

Mr. Singh said that while the government does not favor measures like imposition of the curfew for an indefinite period, these are necessary to ensure the safety of life and property of the people in the valley. The government is taking all steps to resolve the issue. At the same time, the government feels it necessary to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution to the problem through a process of dialogue and consensus among various political parties. The prime minister said that it is in this context that we had organized all-party meetings on Jammu and Kashmir and tried to evolve a unified approach. It is imperative that the problem of Jammu and Kashmir be viewed as a national problem.

Referring to Punjab, the prime minister expressed grave concern over the prevailing situation in the state. He said the terrorists in Punjab, through their acts of wanton violence and carnage, have tried to put a blot on the fair name of the Punjab. Their actions are an insult to the great patriots like Bhagat Singh and his colleagues, who lived and died for the country. The prime minister said the people of Punjab have displayed a tremendous spirit of oneness time and again, cutting across all communities, even in the face of grave terrorist provocations and threats. Mr. V.P. Singh said the security forces on their part will leave no stone unturned to effectively meet the terrorist threat and protect the people.

The prime minister also spoke of the disquieting developments that are taking place in the northeast, particularly in Assam. He said violence has been escalating and large sections of people are living in fear. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed the hope that the state government will take effective steps to contain the problem at this stage itself. The central government will render all possible assistance to the state government in this regard.

Kashmiri 'Terrorists' Interviewed on Training

BK0904111390 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Excerpt] A report from Srinagar says five top terrorists of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] have been caught by the security forces during an armed encounter. Another top leader of the so-called JKLF, who had been injured, is believed to have been killed. The operation was launched in Srinagar this afternoon when the security forces surrounded a house in which these subversives were hiding. We bring you the special report:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Pakistan has been actively helping the subversives operating in the Kashmir Valley. This has been confirmed by apprehending a large number of antinational elements. Recently, in the Uri sector, army jawans [soldiers] captured a huge cache of arms and ammunition from militants. An army colonel told Doordarshan:

[Colonel] In the Uri sector we received information that some antinational elements were trying to cross the line of control. Our men laid an ambush. In the cross fire which ensued, all these antinational elements ran away, leaving behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition, and were subsequently apprehended by our valiant men.

[Reporter] The cache included deadly AK-47 and AK-74 rifles; magazines, ammunition, and Chinese pistols were also recovered. Grenades with handles, antitank mines, antipersonnel mines, and antitank grenades were also seized. The recovery of survival packs with Pakistani markings pinpointed Pakistan's collusion with the militants. A talk with some militants revealed Pakistan's role in subversive activity in the Kashmir Valley.

[Unidentified man, in Urdu] Altaf, who helped you to be a terrorist?

[Altaf] I was helped by Mushtaq Ahmed to become a terrorist. I was taken to Muzaffarabad. Then, I was taken in a closed van. I was told I would be taken to Afghanistan for training.

[Unidentified man, in Urdu] Well, what instructions did they give you there?

[Altaf] There, I was given arms training for 15 days. Some weapons were also given.

[Unidentified man, in Urdu] What weapons were given?

[Altaf] These were Kalashnikov's—one each was given to 10 men, one LMG [light machine gun], rocket launcher, and grenades.

[Unidentified man, in Urdu] So, what were you told to do with the weapons?

[Altaf] We were told to inflict blasts and step up violence in the state government.

[Unidentified man] [Passage indistinct]

[Militant] I did not take to terrorism. I was forced to go with the terrorists by a noted terrorist, Shakeel Bakhshi.

[Unidentified man] What he did tell you?

[Militant] He told me that if I did not go, he would shoot me.

[Unidentified man] Then, how [words indistinct]?

[Militant] I have taken my 12th class examinations. In 1987, I did my matric [examinations] and got 77 percent. In 1988, I did my 11th class and got 78.5 percent in J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] State. I hope to get 82 percent marks in TDC [tertiary degree course].

[Unidentified man] What did this militant tell you to do?

[Militant] Sir, he told me to cross over to Pakistan where I would get training. And after getting training, I had to come here and become a terrorist.

[Unidentified man] And, then do what?

[Militant] To ambush army and then BSF [Border Security Force] and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force].

[Reporter] Paramilitary forces are continuing their efforts to restore peace and normalcy in the valley. Their morale is high. An officer commandant told Doordarshan:

[Commandant] In Anantnag, our troops were carrying out patrolling when we were fired upon. We followed those militants and while searching them in the houses, we found that somebody had thrown a grenade directly on us. But, it did not explode. Immediately, we started to fire and four militants were killed there. Later on, [words indistinct] during search operations in homes, some more arms and ammunition were recovered. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Government Hopes for Punjab Elections in 6 Months

BK1004140390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 10 (AFP)—The Indian Government said Tuesday [10 April] it wanted to hold elections in Punjab within six months as Parliament extended New Delhi's direct rule in the northern state torn by Sikh separatism. Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed told Parliament's upper house that "it is the government's endeavour and determination to hold assembly elections in Punjab within six months." He asked all political parties to cooperate in creating a "conducive atmosphere for a free and fair election." Mr. Sayeed added that the confidence of the Punjabis has to be restored for elections to be held.

Punjab has been ruled directly by the federal government since May 11, 1987, when a Sikh moderate administration was dismissed and the state legislature dissolved by New Delhi amid increasing separatist violence. Violence has increased since then, and more than 700 people have been killed in the separatist drive so far this year.

The Rajya Sabha, or upper house of the bicameral legislature, voted 208-1 in favour of a constitutional amendment to prolong federal rule in Punjab for another six months beyond May 10, when it was due to lapse. The amendment had won approval from the Lok Sabha, or lower house, Thursday [5 April] when it voted 399-3 with three members abstaining.

Jagjit Singh Aurora, a Sikh and the lone MP [member of Parliament] to vote Tuesday against a further extension of federal rule, said the move was a mistake and would further erode the confidence of Sikhs in Punjab.

Many Sikh politicians have charged that the government was terrorising the Punjab population by pursuing an anti-separatist security drive and called for early elections.

Parliament's approval for another spell of federal rule ended an embarrassing legislative phase for the four-month-old National Front government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. The amendment fell through a first time on March 30 mainly because many national front MPs, including ministers, were absent at the time of the voting. The government failed to muster enough votes to push it through.

Two West Delhi Police Stations Bombed

BK1004115090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] There were two bomb blasts in West Delhi today. Both the blasts occurred in the police stations at Rajouri Garden and Tilak Nagar. Initial reports say that two persons were injured when a bomb went off at the Rajouri Garden police station. The bomb was hidden in a toilet. The injured have been admitted to hospitals. The details about the second blast at Tilak Nagar police station are awaited.

Nine Policemen Injured

BK1004125190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Nine police personnel were injured in two separate bomb blast incidents in West Delhi this afternoon. The blasts took place inside the Rajouri Garden and Tilak Nagar police stations. The police commissioner, Mr. Vijaya Karan, told our correspondent that in both the police stations where the blasts took place public had easy access. He said the blasts took place almost simultaneously at both the places and explosive devices with timer were used. The crime branch has been asked to investigate. The injured have been admitted to hospitals.

Bomb Explodes on Bombay Train; Over 20 Injured

BK1104090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] In Bombay, over 20 passengers were injured when a bomb exploded in the second class coach of the Boriwali-bound suburban train this morning. A spokesman of the Western Railway said the injured have been admitted to various hospitals in Malad. He said the explosion took place as the train was about to leave at 0830 this morning from the Churchgate station. He said most of the passengers received leg injuries. Investigations are on.

India-Cuba Joint Commission Holds First Session

BK1004020690 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] The first session of the India-Cuban joint commission was held in New Delhi this morning. The two sides recalled the development of India-Cuban ties over the last 30 years. They expressed the hope that this meeting would lead to further strengthening of India-Cuban relations. While the Indian delegation was led by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, led the other side.

Agreements on science and technology, culture, and sports are expected to be signed tomorrow, according to an official release. The Cuban foreign minister called on the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Cuban foreign minister also called on the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today. They discussed, among other things, bilateral issues and international matters.

Oil, Gas Commission Reaches Target Early

BK0804092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has achieved its seventh plan oil production target well ahead of schedule. According to official sources, a 60 percent increase in oil production, a quantum increase in the reserves, the steady emergence of the southern region on the oil map of the country, the technological expertise, and the opening of avenues for the indigenous industry are some of the highlights.

Iran

TEHRAN TIMES Calls for Hostage Release

LD1104073690 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—An English daily Wednesday welcomed release of three hostages in Lebanon Tuesday and called for the release of all hostages regardless of political considerations.

"In fact the issue of hostage taking should come to an end for all with no discrimination," said 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial.

The daily expressed hope that the Tuesday measure would be a prelude to the freedom of all hostages regardless of their nationality, religion and belief.

Reiterating Iran's opposition against hostage taking, the daily said, "the Islamic Republic has time and again announced its outright opposition to hostage taking as the country finds it contradictory with the Islamic teachings and regards it a serious violation of human relations."

The daily said that there are still other hostages from various countries including Iran kept by political factions adding that a large number of Muslims are also held in Israeli jails on no legal basis. These jailed Muslims "hostages to the force and bullying of the Zionist state," are only demanding restoration of their natural rights, said the paper.

The editorial said that the advocates of peaceful coexistence are conscience-bound "to defend these defenceless people."

Referring to the recent development in the world, it said, "recent international developments which will inevitably entail more and more of the same nature necessitate the establishment of a new forum for dialogue and understanding, one in which nobody feels suppressed enough to embark on hostage taking to have others hear what he has to say."

The editorial said that the Islamic Republic felt itself dutybound to do all in its power to facilitate the release of hostages mainly out of human and Islamic considerations.

"Iran therefore is one with and backs up all those who believe in seriously working to get all the hostages, whether Western or from other countries, released as soon as possible," it stressed.

Further on TEHRAN TIMES Appeal

NC1004194590 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 10 (AFP)—Iran will do everything it can to secure the release of all hostages, the influential TEHRAN TIMES newspaper said here, renewing a strong appeal for their freedom "regardless of any political consideration."

The paper, seen as close to the Iranian government, said in an editorial to appear Wednesday that the release in Beirut Tuesday of three Western hostages could be "a prelude to the freedom of all hostages, regardless of their nationality, religion and beliefs."

The pro-Libyan Palestinian group Fatah Revolutionary Council freed a French woman, Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian companion, Fernand Houtekins, and their two-year-old daughter Sophie-Liberte. But four of Mr. Houtekins' family members remain in the hands of the FRC. In addition 17 Westerners are believed held in Lebanon, several by pro-Iranian Shiite groups.

"The Islamic Republic (of Iran) will use all within its might to facilitate the release of hostages ... mainly out of human and Islamic considerations," the English-language TEHRAN TIMES said.

In addition to those both the West and Iran who are being held by political factions, "there are also a large number of Muslims held on no legal basis by the Zionist state (Israel)" and deserve be considered hostages, it added. [sentence as received] "The issue of hostage-taking should come to an end once and for all with no discrimination. All those who wish to see men in peaceful coexistence are conscience-bound to defend these defenseless people ... All hostages regardless of any political consideration should be freed."

The paper urged "the establishment of a new forum for dialogue and understanding" in which "nobody feels suppressed enough to embark on hostage-taking to have others hear what he has to say."

The TEHRAN TIMES in late February issued an initial appeal for the hostages to be released, after which there was a flurry of speculation here and in Beirut that they could be freed by the end of the year.

*Rafsanjani Said Involved in Waite's Capture

90AS0015A London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Sunday's disclosure in London of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's direct involvement in the abduction of Terry Waite, emissary of the English Archbishop of Canterbury, gave a new dimension to the crisis in relations between the regime of the Islamic Republic and the British government.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's direct involvement in this episode was revealed by sources close to the Shiite kidnappers in Lebanon. These sources had facilitated the numerous talks between Terry Waite and the Shiite kidnappers. Waite himself had traveled regularly to Lebanon to free other hostages. The sources announced that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to resolve his own crisis and also to rescue his young son Mehdi, who had been the mediator in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's talks with the Americans in the Irangate episode, ordered the Shiites to capture Terry Waite and keep him as a hostage.

According to these sources, quoted in the reliable London publication SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, in those days Hashemi-Rafsanjani was embroiled in a severe crisis. His own position, after the disclosure of the Irangate episode and the revelation of his talks with American officials, was severely threatened. They had arrested his son Mehdi in Tehran on charges of having direct relations with the Americans, and imprisoned him in Evin Prison. Even though the talks with the Americans to exchange arms for hostages were carried out with the approval of Ayatollah Khomeyni, the disclosure of this secret information severely endangered Hashemi-Rafsanjani. His rivals, among them 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, then minister of the interior, had found a good excuse for Rafsanjani's removal.

According to sources close to the hostage-takers in Lebanon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani had no other way to recover from the crisis that developed after the disclosure of the Irangate episode. It was even likely that his son in prison would face death.

In such a dangerous crisis, the only way Hashemi-Rafsanjani could see to eliminate the misgivings about his special relations with the West and his inclination to be close to the Americans was to kidnap Terry Waite, and in the course of contacts with the extremist Islamic Jihad group in Beirut, he ordered the kidnapping of the Church of England's Emissary.

Terry Waite was kidnapped in Beirut in January 1987 while on a mission to talk with the hostage-takers to free the other hostages.

With the capture of Terry Waite, naturally the matter of his continued talks to free hostages was forgotten.

The sources who revealed Hashemi-Rafsanjani's direct involvement in Terry Waite's abduction said that if they had known how endangered Hashemi-Rafsanjani was after the disclosure of the Irangate episode and that his son was also in Evin Prison, they would certainly have prevented Terry Waite's trip to Lebanon.

These sources emphasized that after Terry Waite's capture and the end of his talks to free the hostages, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who had ordered this, was able to eliminate the danger in his own situation, and his son was also freed following these events.

We note that the Irangate affair took place after the news came out about the trip by Reagan's national security adviser, MacFarlane, and Colonel Oliver North to Tehran and their talks with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and some other officials of the Islamic Republic. The news of the secret trip by the American officals to Tehran was given to the newspaper AL-SHIRA' by Mehdi Hashemi, Ayatollah Montazeri's brother-in-law. He himself lost his life over this incident and was executed at Evin Prison.

Regime's New Desire to Free Hostages

Following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's expressed interest in freeing the Western hostages held in Lebanon, stated for various reasons in recent weeks, this Sunday the newspaper TEHRAN TIMES, which generally reflects the views of the Islamic government's Foreign Ministry, again took up the issue of freeing the hostages and wrote that the Western hostages can be exchanged for Sheykh 'Abd-al-karim 'Ubayd and a number of other Palestinians being held by Israel.

At the same time the TEHRAN TIMES wrote that a requirement for releasing the Western hostages in Beirut would be to clarify the status of three Iranians, including Mohsen Musavi, the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic in Beirut, who was kidnapped in 1980 by the Phalangists.

Political observers believe that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's direct involvement in the abduction of Terry Waite will create new political problems in international policy for the regime of the Islamic Republic, and this is at a time when the Islamic government is in dire need of economic and financial assistance from the Western governments.

*Text of Majles Statement on Hostage Issue

90AS0018A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Tehran—Central News Unit—Following the recent imperialist radio propaganda about the killing of the four Iranian diplomats kidnapped in 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] by Phalange paramilitary forces, a statement was published signed by more than 170 Majles deputies. The text of the statement, which was made available to the Central News Unit, follows below.

In the name of the Almighty. Indeed God will defend those who believe. Indeed God does not love anyone who betrays the faith. [Koranic verses]

These days, as rumors circulate in abundance about the release of Western spy hostages in Lebanon, we see some of the imperialist radio stations and newspapers, in their desperation, publishing claims that four Iranian diplomats were killed in Lebanon. On the basis of a pre-cut scenario drawn by America, they want to suggest that there is really no Iranian hostage issue, to enable them easily to direct discussions and debates to the hostage issue. The Majles deputies, sensing the danger of a plot concerning the fate of these captive sons of the Islamic Republic, deem it necessary to emphasize the following points. These four Iranian diplomat hostages, including the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, were there in 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] at the time of America's military presence in the area. They were taken prisoner then by special agents under American influence, the Phalange paramilitary forces. Therefore the responsibility for whatever happens to them belongs to America and its agents.

They circulate rumors that their status is unknown and sometimes that they have been martyred, to turn this gradually into a forgotten issue. The latest rumor that they have been killed is along the same lines, and its intent is to probe the Islamic Republic of Iran's reaction.

The fate of the Western hostages in Lebanon is connected with the rightful demands of the suffering Muslims for an end to the American plot and Israeli aggression in Lebanon, and it is connected with the fate of the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim hostages. The propaganda from the imperialist media about separating the fate of the Western hostages from the issues of Lebanon is severely condemned.

Once again we call upon the officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry to announce a clear position on hostages in answer to the evil propaganda of recent days and the rumors of secret hostage talks, and to emphasize that, contrary to this desperate propaganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran had nothing to do with the Western hostages and that it will never act against the interest of the Muslim people of Lebanon. Likewise, the Foreign Ministry must decisively pursue the fate of the captive sons of the Islamic Republic of Iran and take serious steps to save them.

U.S. Silence on Iraqi Expulsion From UN Noted

LD1104082890 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Wednesday commenting on expulsion of an Iraqi diplomat from the United Nations on charges of involvement in terrorist activities said the U.N. silence in this connection is detrimental for the future of the body.

"Against public expectation, neither the United States nor the United Nations have shown a proper reaction against this blatant Iraqi violation at an organisation which is believed to be the most important international body," it added.

The English daily asked if the United Nations was still secure for important world leaders and personalities who regularly attend the forum with regards to the extension of Iraqi terrorist activities to the forum.

The editorial criticised U.S. officials who were aware of unlawful activities of the Iraqi mission to the United Nations in advance and yet refused to reveal it.

"This is while Washington always levels unfounded charges against revolutionary states with a lot of propaganda hue and cry before the world public opinion," it added.

Washington seems to be willing to continue its friendly ties with Baghdad although some reports by American mass media recently indicate the contrary, it said.

"It is only natural and appropriate to expect the United Nations and the secretary general as its highest official to take proper action vis-a-vis this inhuman Iraqi measure which is also in contravention of diplomatic norms and principles," said the daily.

Otherwise future governments in Iraq would be encouraged to turn to such acts as they see no obstacles, it added.

Economic Saboteurs Subject to Death Sentence

LD1104081190 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat said here Tuesday that those who intend to damage country's economic system under any pretext, will be considered as those waging war on the system, an offence which is punishable by death.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam made the remark in an address to the members of the Muslim Student's Association of Tehran University adding that action of economic saboteurs is no different from those committed by groups subservient to the West and the East.

A motion was presented to the Majlis Sunday calling for punishment of economic saboteurs.

Bill Called 'Not Sufficient'

LD1104112190 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—A Persian daily commenting on the bill presented to the Majles calling for the punishment of "saboteurs of economic system" said today "although approval of the bill is necessary still it is not sufficient." The afternoon 'ETTELA'AT stressed that some problems could be solved through decisive judicial measures but, "enforcement of severe punishment in the absence of a sound planned economy may not only prove useless and incomplete but even harmful."

However, hoarders should not be punished merely for speculation of goods but rather for destabilizing the Islamic system and dealing fatal blows on people's social security, the article said.

Today, the daily noted, the Majles is fully aware of the fact that economic bottlenecks cannot be removed simply by the execution of corrupt elements and "economic terrorists". Because, it stressed, as long as production is not increased and capital and manpower is not absorbed towards this end, many economic problems would remain unsettled.

However, the daily concluded, the wheels of the economy should be run through scientific ways and sound planning. Of course, it argued, any hinderance in this connection should be immediately removed and obliterated.

Nobari, USSR's Bessmertnykh Discuss Relations

LD1104101790 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Moscow Naser Heirani-Nobari met in Moscow Tuesday with Soviet Acting Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Tehran-Moscow relations and international and security issues were reviewed by the two officials.

Talks Held With Lebanese Shiite Official

LD1004135290 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 10, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires to Beirut Muhammad Javad Zamaniyan Monday met with Lebanon's Shiite Mufti 'Abdal-Amir Qublan. The two discussed the Lebanese situation especially the latest developments in the south.

Zamaniyan and Qublan also stressed on ending the fratricide between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region. Later in the day the Iranian envoy reviewed the outcome of the 2nd world congress for supporting Palestine uprising, with a Palestinian committee member. The two also discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist regime.

Parliamentary Union Delegate on Jewish Emigration

LD0904185690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report at the end of the 83d Interparliamentary Union [IPU] session in Nicosia, Ahmad 'Azizi, the head of our country's dispatched mission to that conference, while approving the general framework of the resolution issued at the end of the conference, referred to the fundamental emphasis made in the resolution regarding peace and security in the Mediterranean.

He said the approval of the resolution is a sign of the inclination and attention paid to the establishment of peace and security to other parts of the world by the representatives of the parliaments and the IPU. He expressed the hope that this inclination will pave the way for the IPU to adopt a just attitude toward peace and security in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf and will result in the evacuation of foreign forces, particularly U.S. forces, from the Persian Gulf. He also announced Iran's views which disagree with some articles of the resolution, indirectly recognizing borders of the Jerusalem ocupying regime, and elaborated Iran's policies on the rejection of any move which results in the legitimization of that regime.

Mr 'Azizi said that Israel is not a country but a base against the region's Muslim countries and nations. That regime was born illegitimately and has been brought up illegitimately with U.S. support.

The resolution of the 83d IPU conference condemns the Zionist regime's establishment of Zionist settlements in the occupied territories, the settlement of the Soviet Jews in those territories, and the underhanded actions of the regime occupying Jerusalem for joining southern regions of Lebanon to the occupied Palestine. The resolution was prepared in 26 clauses entitled: Progress for the Mediterranean Region's Peace and Security, in light of the recent developments in Europe and international events. The resolution, while calling for the complete implementation of the UN resolutions concerning the preservation of Lebanon's territorial integrity and that country's sovereignty over all of its territory, asks for condemnation of suppressive policies against the inhabitants of that region.

The 83d IPU conference in other resolutions approved the campaign against narcotics and the use of professional training and new technology toward social justice.

New Commission To Implement Italian Agreement

LD0804013990 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—A permanent committee is to be formed to follow up and study necessary coordination for agreements concluded at the third Tehran-Rome Joint Economic Commission last Thursday [5 April]. The result of the Joint Commission which is being talked about as a major economic deal of the Islamic Republic, was achieved during Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi's Rome visit.

The first session of the permanent committee is to be held next month.

Va'ezi Notes Outcome of Talks With French

LD0804194590 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The deputy foreign minister for Euroamerican affairs Sunday outlined the outcome of the 5th round of Tehran-Paris talks on settling their financial disputes. In a press conference, Mahmud Va'ezi said several cases were thoroughly studied during seven rounds of talks in Tehran between the French delegation headed by the foreign Ministry Director-General Francois Scheer and Iranian officials. "We got some results in one case, with our views on two other ones drawing closer...another case needs deep study," he said. However, added Va'ezi, with regards to a decision taken by the two sides that all cases should be viewed as a whole, results gained so have not been announced, because some solutions need more study if the two sides are to reach full agreement on all cases in the end.

Among other topics brought up at this round of talks were the latest status of U.N. Resolution 598, the Lebanese and Afghan issues, and relations between the Islamic Republic and the European Economic Community, he said. During the 3-day stay in Tehran of the French delegation, a committee was set up to draw up a draft letter of understanding for expansion of Tehran-Paris ties in political, cultural and economic fields, to be inked in the future, Va'ezi said.

Foreign Minister Receives Ugandan Special Envoy

LD1004211890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Abdul-Hamid, the Ugandan government's special envoy, this morning met Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati in Tehran, submitting to him a message from his country's foreign minister. In that meeting, the special envoy of the Ugandan government stressed the need to expand bilateral relations in various fields, and expressed the willingness of his government and his country's private sector to conduct economic and cultural cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Velayati in turn expressed his thanks for the Ugandan foreign minister's message. He further pointed to the significance attached by Islamic Republic of Iran to her relations with African countries, and declared our country's readiness for political, economic, and cultural cooperation with Uganda.

Foreign Journalists Invited to Al-Quds Celebration

LD0804204490 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Foreign media men have been invited to the Islamic Republic for covering news of the international Al-Quds day falling April 20 this year. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in its statement called on interested mediamen to refer to Iran's representations abroad for visas.

The last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan was declared by the late founder of the Islamic Revolution as the day of struggle against the Zionist regime in 1981. Muslims in Iran and other countries hold ceremonies on the occasion of Al-Quds day every year.

Saddam's 'Dire Threats' Called Hypocritical

NC1104105090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam's Dire Threats Two-Faced and Motivated"]

[Text] Saddam, head of the regime ruling over Iraq, said in a radio speech Monday [2 April] that he possessed advanced binary chemical weapons. He also threatened to use these weapons against the Zionist state if it attacked Iraq!

The Israeli regime and the United States both reacted hotly against this statement of Saddam and in a way condemned it.

Unfortunately such tactics accompanied with the West's hypocritical attitude are not something new and in fact seem to have become part of the culture of Iraqi regime.

Alas, for the West, particularly the U.S., the actual committing of a "crime" is not as important as who the "crime" is committed against.

It seems only yesterday that Saddam with the help of technology obtained from the very same European countries used chemical weapons against innocent and oppressed Iraqi Kurdish minority. We are referring to the March 1988 massacre of 5,000 women, men and children, the innocent people of Halabja, by Iraqi chemical weapons.

Moreover, Saddam's regime openly used chemical weapons against Iranian combatants in defiance of all internationally-recognized laws and regulations throughout its imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But when he perpetrated these crimes, there was not much of a reaction from the hypocritical West. But today when Saddam hypocritically threatens a close ally of the U.S. (the Zionist regime), all the attacks of Western mass media resound in unison against him.

But these threats of Saddam against Israel should not be taken seriously because throughout Iraq's aggressive war against the Islamic Republic of Iran he obtained extensive aid through Jordanian ports with the acquiescence and green light of the Zionist regime.

And as a matter of principle, Saddam very well knows that the threat he has made will never be practically implemented. But there are two important points about these statements of Saddam.

First of all, the world and international political scene has reached such a level of moral and legal degradation that the head of a government impudently, shamelessly and openly threatens to violate international laws and norms—something that even Hitler was not willing to do during World War II.

Secondly, the regional countries, especially the member-states of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC] should by now have realized that Saddam poses the greatest threat to them. In fact, Saddam is not capable of fighting Israel directly.

The fact is that Saddam wants to show off his power and fangs to the (P)GCC countries so that they would be cowed into acquiescence in his regional plots.

Editorial Views Western 'Double Standards'

NC1104103490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Western Double Standards in Middle East Policies"]

[Text] Three flights carrying Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived in Tel Aviv from Budapest last Sunday. Hungary, although it had earlier stopped the emigration of Soviet Jews to the Israeli occupied land, has once again resumed allowing flights through Budapest under pressure from the Zionist lobby in the West. And so the deep-rooted plot to overwhelm the Palestinian lands with Jews from whatever part of the world goes on unabated.

Still other moves are being pushed ahead, of which one is a commitment by Poland to provide Jewish people emigrating from the Soviet Union with facilities as they transit through this country. Then the U.S. Senate on March 22 passed a resolution which recognized Israel's rights to annex the eastern Arab part of Holy Quds (Jerusalem) which was occupied by Israel in the 1976 war with Egypt and later declared the capital.

Though the Senate resolution is not binding on the U.S. Administration, it still indicates how the U.S. lawmakers view the entire issue of Palestine. It also indicates how much influence can be wielded by the Zionist lobby in that country when the interests of Israel come into play.

What is so reprehensible in all this is the fact that the West and particularly the U.S., while urging Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to show restraint in the face of independence movements in Lithuania and Estonia, care a rap when it comes to the Palestinians in the Israeli occupied lands. It is paradoxical to see the world moving towards peace in the West, while all the ingredients that foster conflict are being worked into the Middle Eastern political fabric.

Then this same West led by the United States either keeps silence or encourages the Kremlin to use force in Soviet Azerbaijan, where the situation is more or less similar to that prevailing in other Baltic republics.

What can be concluded from such contradictory approaches is that these so-called champions of independence, democracy and human rights adopt double standards when it comes to questions where the rights of Muslims are involved whether in Palestine, Lebanon or any other place in the world.

Is it any wonder then that such inconsistent and unjust behavior leaves certain Muslims, represented by their groups, to take up arms in the struggle for Muslim rights? When this happens, the Western media, without any deeper assessment of the motives that compel these deprived people to fight, call them terrorists and whatever.

It is time for the right-thinking common people in the West without partisan or vested interests to understand and come to grips with the philosophy behind armed struggle. They will most often see that it is a struggle of last resort when all peaceful means fail to solve problems and end up in frustration and utter disappointment as a consequence of Western plots. One does not have far to look to see that such acts as kidnappings and killings of those who may not even be directly involved in the affairs relating to these, that they are acts of frustration and desperation triggered when all other avenues of redress to their plight has been closed to those perpetrating such acts.

Before it is too late, we appeal to the common people of the West and also to the peoples of Hungary and Poland to put pressure on their governents to persuade them to refrain from plots against their Muslim human counterparts in other countries and particularly those in Palestine and Lebanon.

Karrubi Chairs 10 Apr Majles Open Session

LD1004125290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] In its open session today the Islamic Consultative Assembly ratified the general points of two bills. Our correspondent reports on remarks made by Majles speaker, and on ratifications made in today's open Majles session.

[Correspondent] This morning's open Majles session was chaired by Majles Speaker Karrubi, who congratulated the world's Muslims, and especially the esteemed leadership and selfless nation of Iran, on the blessed birthday of that second shining star of the imamat's galaxy, His Holiness Imam Hasan Mojtaba [second Shiite imam]—may peace be upon him. Furthermore, he expressed the hope that, inspired by the virtues of the imams, the martyrdom-seeking nation of Iran may attain its supreme goals.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Karrubi congratulated our Jewish compatriots on their religious feast, adding: Our dear imam always expressed his regard for religious minorities. We hope that religious minorities, and the Jews, may be the true followers of His Holiness Moses, and by expressing their hatred of the ugly methods of Zionists they may be able to move toward cleansing the Palestinian lands of the presence of Zionists so that the Muslims and Jews of that region may be able to live alongside each other freely.

Also in today's open Majles session, the Majles deputies ratified the general points of a bill pertaining to employment matters in Ministry of Health, Hygiene and Medical Education, as well as a bill on setting up a national committee in charge of remedying the effects of natural disasters.

[Announcer] According to the same report, the credentials of Messrs. Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani and Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, deputies from Tehran, were approved at today's open Majles session.

Further on Majles Speech

LD1004153890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Dear listeners, in a fiery speech at the first session of the mullahs' Majles in the new year, Karrubi attacked the United States. Imitating Khomeyni, who said that relations between the United States and the regime are like relations between an oppressor and the oppressed, Karrubi said that one should fight against an oppressor and keep alive the morale of struggle and resistance against the United States. Of course, there is a reason for making such remarks in the first session of the turbaned Majles. These sharp and abrasive remarks show first, that the war and dispute between the rivals have intensified, and that one warring faction, by exploiting the fruits of 10 years of vindictive propaganda against the United States as the arch-Satan, is trying to weaken and discredit its rivals among the Hezbollah. One should not imagine that the outcome of such propaganda among the Hezbollah is either negligible or useless in the fight against the ruling faction. Second, these remarks show that the grounds for restoration of ties with the United States are moving in such a way that if an opposite current does not block it today, it might be too late tomorrow.

The fact is that the U.S. Government wishes to discard the extremists from the political power, and they have realised this. If the United States were to decide to support the Khamene'i- Hashemi-Rafsanjani faction through diplomacy, dollars, and weapons, on what sort of internal or external power could the extremists rely in order to stop the extensive purge the ruling faction would wage against them? The hardliners will not receive support from abroad because of their medieval views, and the people inside the country hate them. Therefore, they will not be able to stop the onslaught of the ruling faction against their positions. It is for this reason that in line with the intensification of the efforts to resume ties with the United States, which currently is concentrated on the hostage issue, the hardliners also are intensifying their attacks on these efforts, on the ruling faction and on the United States.

The stance of Karrubi and his clique in the present circumstances shows that despite all the endeavor and haste undertaken by Hashemi-Rafsanjani so as to solve the problems between Iran and the United States, his rivals and the radicals still are strong enough to rise against the Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani faction and to undermine the guarantees that the government gives to the West, particularly when the measures come from the Majles speaker. It is clear that on the surface Mullah Karrubi, irrespective of those who provoke him, is against the resumption of ties with the United States, but is this a correct demand? Such a demand is a repeat of Khomeyni's phrase, who used to say: Why do we need to have relations with the United States? This is an erroneous slogan, stemming from an insane mind. The policy of breaking relations with the West would harm the country's progress and will harm Iran's national interests. This slogan, therefore, is not supported by the country's democratic movement under the present circumstances. The democratic movement, however, would have considered the issue under other circumstances, such as economic boycott of South Africa, but under the existing conditions it is neither desirable nor appropriate to consider such an issue. Karrubi's demands therefore are totally wrong, and are more useful for demagogy and discrediting rivals than for running a state. At the same time, we must stress that ties with all the countries, including the United States, should guarantee the interests of both parties with equal rights, mutual respect, and should be far from secret collusion. Since Hashemi-Rafsanjani is thinking of saving the regime at all costs, he is not seeking to fulfill these principles. The people of Iran wish to have ties with all countries, including the United States. However, they would like to see that these relations are open and will safeguard the country's interests and development. For this reason the nation, while deriding Mullah Karrubi's selfish remarks, is decisively against the policy of surrendering Iran's national interests to the U.S. Government and is against secret collusion with that government.

President Recommends Research To Assist Economy

LD0904034190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 90

[Text] By mobilizing the university staff and students, steps can be taken to prepare research projects and to remove shortages in the deprived areas. Addressing a meeting of the managers and staff of Tehran University's Research and Consultation Centre (RCC), President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It is very useful to set up a center like this; efforts should be undertaken to utilize the potential and experience of the university lecturers and students in implementing the country's economic projects.

The president expressed the hope that the endeavor by Tehran University's students and staff at this center would become an example for other universities in the country to follow. The president added: Establishment of centers similar to this, within the framework of the ratified projects, should become an essential part of the students' work, besides their academic studies, so they are involved in the country's reconstruction.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani drew the university lecturers' attention to the point that the subjects of the students' dissertations and theses should be recommended to them on the basis of requirements of the society, so they can be useful in solving the country's current problems and difficulties.

It is worth mentioning that the Tehran University RCC is set up through participation of the heads of the architecture, urban development and technical faculties. It is serving the country by utilizing the potential power of 27,000 students and 1,600 academic staff in all basic science and research.

During their meeting with the president today, the center's staff declared their readiness to prepare a comprehensive and detailed map of the war zone and to propose a research system for the country.

Political Commentary Given on Week's Events

LD0904092490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: during the past week the most important events consisted of an increase in intragovernmental wrangling over the Western hostages in Lebanon; an intensification of governmental propaganda on fighting hoarders; the continuing purge of radicals from government organs by the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i clique; Bilateral economic meetings between the regime's representatives and some countries; Velayati's comments on the obstacles in the path of future peace negotiations; and finally, the continued faction-fighting over the suitability of Khamene'i as leader. In the talk which you will hear shortly, these events will be discussed and analyzed.

During the past week, in parallel with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's renewed efforts for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, (?wrangling) between rival factions increased once again. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's latest effort, sending his brother to Lebanon to convince that country's fanatical hizballah, was for the sake of the release of the hostages. The dispatch of his brother was apparently aimed at foiling the renewed efforts of Mohtashemi (?supporters). [passage omitted] All the signs suggest that changes in the balance of forces between rival groups inside and outside the country have not advanced to a point that might lead to an immediate release of the hostages. [passage omitted]

Another of last week's important events that [words indistinct] is worth discussing is the authorization of directors and heads of administrative offices to remove people who have problems with or are against the direction and program of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government. This development (?is the result of an ongoing process) and (?may be seen) as the outcome of a specific policy of the ruling clique—a policy that has as its aim an extensive purge of the supporters of the rivals of the said Hashemi-Rafsanjani's clique. This policy has been under way with full force and resolve since Hashemi-Rafsanjani became president. So far about 50 members of leadership cadres in provinces, towns, and districts have been purged since then. In addition, about a month ago, Rafsanjani's government decided that 400 groups consisting of 1,200 people should examine the personal files of employees and decide about offending employees. The groups have been given complete control, and they are free from judicial supervision. The mentioned measures are various aspects of the ruling clique's policy. The prime aim of the policy is the consolidation of the position of the ruling clique against internal rivals. This policy aims at the same time to establish the conditions for renewed ties with the United States and the attraction of aid from it.

The renewed round of purges in the government is a sign of the intensification of wrangling at the top. It is also a sign of the fact that the basis of the government has become more narrow and [words indistinct] opponents of the ruling clique increase. That means that the possibility of an effective battle against the ruling clique is on the increase, and this must now be taken advantage of, to the benefit of the country's democratic movement. Toward that end, greater emphasis on the slogan of democracy, and the human rights slogan, take on greater importance.

One of the other issues about which discussion really intensified last week is the issue of hoarders and economic terrorists. Among the notable remarks which were made in that regard are the words of Sheykh Karrubi against them. He said that hoarders are the corrupt of the earth and that their punishment must be execution. He said in response to the request of Mullah Yazdi that the legislature is prepared to cooperate with judiciary in the battle against economic terrorists.

Karrubi's remarks will, of course, not lead anywhere in view of the role and position of big bazaaris and hoarders within the regime's political and judicial organs, and there is no sign that the government is prepared to take any effective action against plundering merchants. The fact that Mullah Karrubi speaks so heatedly against bazaari millionaires has, at the same time, its special causes; that is, the intensification of disputes within the leadership.

Under the current circumstances, the engaged parties try to take advantage of one another's weak points. The shortage and exhorbitant prices of goods, and the people's extreme unhappiness about the situation, are some of the things which one can use to enter the field against the government's policy—because we all know that the Resalat clique is in close coalition with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's group: a clique that is a firm supporter of the bazaar's billions and that defends its shameless acts of plunder. A very clear recent example of that is Yazdi's remarks in defense of joint stock companies. One of the things which can, therefore, be used against Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is precisely the activities of bazaari hoarders. It was in that same framework that Mullah Karrubi criticised the government for not confronting hoards.

Karrubi said: economic terrorists must be executed. It is interesting that he got that idea from Yazdi, someone who has close ties with the bazaar and is one of it firm supporters. Such an expectation from such a person is more in the nature of a joke. Just that fact proves that the remarks of the Majles speaker is part and parcel of the (?unreal outlook) toward, and incapacity to solve, the people's problems.

Quite apart from the mullah's propaganda remarks, it should be said that, first of all, execution is an inhuman act, and such a punishment will say once again that we want the abolition of capital punishment. Second, it should be said that execution is not a solution to hoarding, nor does it go toward taming large commercial capital. Third, the truth is that large commercial capital plays a damaging role in the country's economy; it should be brought to an end—and that task requires, before anything else, radical economic measures against that (?force) and its supporters in the leadership, something of which neither the likes of Mullah Karrubi nor Hashemi-Rafsanjani nor, (?by proxy), Mullah Yazdi are capable. [passage omitted]

One of the factors that has intensified the regime's crisis is the issue of Khamene'i's leadership. Khamene'i's leadership, which ought to have concentrated the ruling clique's energy and resolve around measures against crisis, has itself turned into a crisis-intensifying factor. Last week Ayatollah Jannati, in reaction to increased opposition to Khamane'i's leadership, addressed all Friday imams, propaganda organizations, and government newspapers, calling on them to decisively support Khamene'i's leadership. Some time before that, seminarians of the Qom seminary, (?under the control of) Azari-Qom and (?his like), made that same request. The ruling clique understands that if the tangled problems of Khamene'i's leadership is not (?resolved), it is hard to know what political difficulties will arise for the ruling clique from that direction. Jannati and the Qom seminarians' pleas must also must be analyzed in the framework of combatting those dangers.

Nonetheless, one thing is clear: In view of the fact tha Khamene'i is but a middle-ranking mullah and nothing can be seen in him that places him above others, those pleas will not yield the response wished for him by the regime, and Khamene'i's leadership will remain a catalyst for the intensification of the crisis.

ETTELA'AT Interviews Deputy Mohtashemi

NC0704195090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Mar 90 p 4

[Report on interview with Tehran Majles Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent in Ahvaz—date not given]

[Text] The only path out of the impasse on Resolution 598 is not through direct or indirect talks; instead, it lies within the framework of our military strength and defense within the country and abroad. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi made this remark during an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Ahvaz. Regarding how to resolve the Resolution 598 impasse, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin said: In view of the fact that the enemy does not wish to implement the resolution and that the great powers do not see to it that Iraq abide by its personal and international commitments, we need two things to extricate ourselves from this stalemate.

First, internal strength. The secret of this is hidden in the remarks and plans of Imam Khomeyni. In planning for the 20-million strong Armed Forces, which the Imam had ordained, the forces should be trained and ready to defend the ideals of the revolution and country.

It is natural that when the enemy sees such forces poised against it, it will have to bow its head before the rightful demands of the nation. As in the past, even after the acceptance of Resolution 598, we should continue to remain active in the formation and training of the 20-million strong Armed Forces and mobilization forces. We should upgrade the level of our defense structure's manpower and strategic arms to the level of excellence.

Second, external strength. This is another aspect of the issue. We have a very high level of strength and energy among the Islamic countries, and in fact in the heart of the advanced Western countries. These are the forces which are comprised of Muslim nationalities who are enamored of our revolution. Our enemies are terrified of the power, ability, and presence of the Islamic revolution outside the Iranian borders. We can clearly see evidence of the strength of the Islamic revolution in all Islamic countries and wherever Muslims are present.

The enemy cannot gauge the strength of this power. This power and potential is unidentified and invisible to the great powers. It is for this reason that enemies are in awe of the Islamic Republic. If we have had dazzling victories in the world and in politics as well as in issues of defense, it was because of the same high level of ability and potential. Therefore, on the basis of this premise, the path out of the impasse of Resolution 598 is not by means of direct and indirect peace talks but lies within the framework of the defense and military power at home and abroad.

A third suggestion can be made about resolving the impasse; that is, to compromise with or show leniency toward the superpowers. Those who advocate this presume that if the Islamic Republic remains within the framework of international systems and is included in the so-called international norms, the superpowers will force Iraq to implement Resolution 598 and the stalemate will be broken.

However, this is mere wishful thinking and is utterly fallacious. First of all, being included in the framework of the international systems, which are the camp for apostasy and heresy led by the United States, will result in our forsaking the revolution and Islam. Then we will not have the right to implement our various laws pertaining to the Constitution, those approved by the Islamic Majles, and not even those Islamic judicial laws.

We will then have to abide by the laws and norms which are internationally current. On the other hand, we will also have to follow the policies imposed by the superpowers. This would mean that we would have to ignore the political and economic independence of the country and more specifically, we would have a culture which would have the patronage of the superpowers. We would also have to embrace the same bondage and degradation which Iran eliminated by offering tens of thousands of martyrs on the path of its revolution.

Thus, on the basis of all this, there is only one way out of the present impasse; that is to strengthen our defense structure and firmly determine to struggle against enemies to vindicate the rights of our government and nation.

In answer to a question on the reason for the U.S. wish to forge relations with Iran and whether having relations with the arch-Satan will be of benefit to Iran, Mr. Mohtashemi said: The reason for such enthusiasm is merely to undermine the firm determination of the Iranian nation and revolution in the world. The United States has made nations believe that they cannot stand on their own feet without depending on the greater powers. However, we witnessed how the Islamic revolution of Iran refuted this Satanic logic of the United States.

If by means of its increasing pressure, political moves, and propaganda bombardment it deceives Iran and establishes relations, it will mean the defeat of all revolutionary logic in the country and among nations.

Regarding the future of the Palestinian uprising, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi then said: If deviant actions of the Arab and PLO leaders are ineffective within the occupied lands, this movement will continue and eventually the Palestinian nation will be able to destroy the usurpist regime and attain its rights.

In answer to whether only an armed struggle will prove fruitful, he said: An armed struggle from outside and in a special set of circumstances within the occupied regions is the only path to fruition for the aspirations of the Palestinian nation. I believe that not only the Palestinian people should be responsible for the fate of Palestine—Palestine is an Islamic country, and all the Islamic countries and Muslim nations are equally responsible.

Continuing, he added: Regarding the role of the Islamic country of Iran and regional countries in the Palestinian Muslim uprising's coming to fruition, I do not think that regional countries have done anything positive in this regard. Not only the Arab countries but also all the Islamic countries seem to be comatose regarding the issue. The Islamic Republic of Iran has done a lot politically and materially for the Palestinian revolution.

The martyrs' foundation provides assistance to to the martyrs' families. Politically, the Islamic Republic of Iran has defended and will continue to defend the Palestinians' rights. From the military point of view, the soldiers of Islam have risen to defend the Palestinian nation since 1982 and continue to do so.

Mr. Mohtashemi then referred to the problems of Lebanon and the recent stance adopted by Michel 'Awn and stated: In the past five to six months, the United States and the West have made a serious decision to resolve the Lebanon crisis. Miscellaneous steps have been taken by the United States and its affiliated regimes in the region. One of the examples is the al-Ta'if session of the Lebanese parliament. He added: On the basis of this, to control the Islamic movements and to crush the Hizballah forces and the Islamic resistance, there was no recourse but to consolidate the Christian political Maronism which is subject to the policies of the United States and the West. That could only occur if all the Arab and Islamic countries were to were to accept it and if all the representatives of the United Nations and the Security Council would legitimize it. This means that in one international conspiracy they would destroy the Muslims' rights and consolidate the Maronite government in Lebanon. This is what was done in al-Ta'if, and they were confident that it would bear fruit.

They expected the president to be elected by the parliament and to take over the reigns of government. With the regional, pan-Arab, and international pressure, the armed Lebanese groups would be disarmed. Of course, in the view of the West and the United States, disarmament of the factions and armed organizations in Lebanon does not refer to those affiliated to the East or the West since these armed factions have been armed for the past 30 years and remain so.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi added: The United States knew full well that Michel 'Awn's executive powers were greater than all others' for implementing the policies of the West and the United States and for crushing the Islamic forces, even national forces. However, when they saw that Michel 'Awn could not remain in power legally, they agreed to delegate the tasks to a weaker person; that is, to Iliyas al-Hirawi.

Naturally, if the Islamic Hizballah forces and the Islamic resistance movements, the Islamic Tawhid Movement, the association of scholars, and all other groups active in Lebanon confront the planned U.S. policies in Lebanon, the U.S. plots will suffer defeat once again.

TEHRAN TIMES Interviews Ayatollah Jannati

NC1104102890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 90 p 2

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tehran—"All the media, radio and television, [and] Ministry of Guidance speakers should pay more attention to follow Imam Khomeyni's teachings and sayings, ignore minor issues and stress the important issues of the day to people", said Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propagation Organization in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES here this week.

Speaking to the TEHRAN TIMES on the first anniversary of his appointment as the head of the Islamic Propagation Organization by Imam Khomeyni on April 3, 1989 he referred to the main points of Imam Khomeyni's decree and said, "The clarification of pure Muhammadan Islam, showing the ways of fighting against Western capitalism and Eastern communism are among the major duties of the Islamic Propagation Organization according to the decree of Imam Khomeyni issued last year.

"We have trod Imam's path so far and will follow it in spite of all the difficulties," said Ayatollah Jannati, adding that, "People should be mobilized to struggle against pseudo-religious thoughts and be taught the pure Muhammadan Islam."

Talking of Qods Day, Ayatollah Jannati urged all the Muslims of the world to take part more effectively and unite to show their support for the oppressed Muslims in the occupied territories by the Zionists.

Elsewhere in the interview Ayatollah Jannati said, "According to the repeated demands of the revolutionary Muslims on observing Islamic covering for women, we have proposed a plan to the concerned bodies to be discussed and if it is approved by the Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i it will be implemented throughout the country."

Navy Plans To Recruit Basij Members Announced

LD0704231290 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Navy Commander 'Ali Shamkhani announced Saturday [7 April] that the Navy in order to boost its efficiency and take forward its objectives will recruit competent and capable Basij members (Mobilization of the Oppressed) who wish to join the Navy.

Shamkhani speaking in graduation ceremony at a Navy base in Sirjan, Kerman Province, added that the recruitment will start in the second half of the current Iranian year (started March 21).

*French Court Votes for Return of Loan

90AS0015N London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] A French appeals court in Marseilles recently held as inadmissible a ruling by the arbitrators of the International Chamber of Commerce issued 25 April 1985 in which the Islamic Republic was condemned for refusing to deliver enriched uranium to the French Eurodif Consortium. This ruling by the Marseilles appeals court will strengthen the position of the Islamic Republic in negotiations to collect a loan of $1 billion extended to France, along with the interest.

The Eurodif Consortium was seeking 9,000 million francs ($1.56 billion) in damages from the Islamic Republic. In its turn, the Islamic Republic was seeking repayment of a loan of $1 billion from the French Atomic Energy Commission which Iran had extended in 1973. In 1979 the Islamic Republic announced that it neither wished to carry out the project to deliver the enriched uranium ordered by France nor to complete the nuclear power plant near Ahvaz. The Iranian nuclear power plant, which was to be built with help from the Framatome Company, was left half-finished due to the Islamic revolution. France, because of the Islamic regime's lack of interest in completing the power plant, blocked the repayment of a $1 billion loan obtained from Iran.

The London weekly economic journal MEED [Middle East Economic Digest], which published a report on the activities of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization in its latest issue, writes: The news of the ruling from the Marseilles Appeals Court that the opinion from the Arbitration Council of the International Chamber of Commerce issued 25 April 1985 is inadmissible is being released when the Islamic Republic is preparing for the fourth round of negotiations on the Treaty of 1979. These negotiations, in which Mohammad Va'ezi, the Islamic Republic's deputy foreign minister, and Francois Scheer, a high-ranking official of the French Foreign Ministry, will participate, will begin early next April.

The weekly journal MEED adds: To date France has repaid two-thirds of its $1 billion loan from Iran. The Islamic Republic is now seeking to collect the remaining third of the loan, along with $1 billion in interest. In turn, the French companies are claiming that the Islamic Republic must pay them reparations of $866 million (five billion francs).

*'Secret' National Security Directives Issued

90AS0015E London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Following the recent disturbances in Tehran and the municipalities, the Islamic Republic's National Security Council, at a meeting in the first week of the month of Esfand [20-26 February] chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, issued secret guidelines for dealing with the new conditions in the country to all the governors-general and district governors of the nation.

The contents of these 13-point guidelines are printed below:

1 - All police and military units must be in a state of readiness to stop any unanticipated action or counterrevolutionary moves.

2 - The action must be stopped without hesitation of any kind. It is necessary to utilize orthodox and believing people who have been tested.

3 - Intelligence units are ordered to monitor public traffic in the streets and at urban high-density points of movement and to follow any kind of suspicious activity.

4 - Individuals and suspicious elements with ties to groups, counterrevolutionary parties, and anti-regime groups must be secretly watched.

5 - Units responsible for monitoring the cities must be armed with the weapons and equipment needed to confront demonstrations.

6 - Rapid measures must be taken to reduce dissatisfaction, especially tangible and prominent dissatisfaction, and if this is not possible the point must be made that the Islamic regime is itself unhappy with the shortages and is striving to overcome them. Likewise, if the people are sensitive about one or several officials, these officials must be replaced or transferred elsewhere. Likewise, promises must be made to deal with the complaints of the people.

7 - On television and especially on the radio, propaganda programs for dealing with the needs of the people must be strengthened, and for example interviews must be held with top-level government officials.

8 - New planning and measures must be carried to occupy the youth and students. The Ministry of Islamic Guidance and the Ministry of Education and Training must do more and act more quickly in this matter. In all measures, Islam and the Islamic government must be kept in mind.

9 - All the nation's top-level officials must keep the regime's views and Islamic commands in mind in their encounters with individuals who are disrupting the public order and deal with them decisively and with full belief.

10 - The people must be called to the Friday prayers with patience and Islamic persuasion, and for this purpose consistent use must be made of known personalities, intellectuals, along with the Friday imams.

11 - The plots of America and its domestic lackeys to attack the Islamic regime must be exposed and they must clarify the collusion of the demonstrators or any pretext for protest with America. At the same time the positive aspect of Galindo Pohl's report must be promoted at gatherings and in the media.

12 - Until conditions return to normal, the urban security councils must meet once a week, and if nothing happens the meetings can be held once every two weeks.

The National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran

We note that the contents of these guidelines reached us through the Rah-e Kargar [Road of the Worker] Organization.

*Majles Makes Disclosures on 1990-91 Budget

90AS0015F London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Some members of the Majles are not in agreement with the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and during talks by this Majles concerning the Budget Bill for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], some of truth about the economy and the acts of the Islamic Republic was revealed. For example, Sheykh Sadeq Khalkhali, speaking against the budget, said:

Consider how many villages were ruined at the beginning of the revolution and how many are ruined now. At the beginning of the revolution 20 percent of the villages were ruined, but now one of the deputies is saying 80 percent of them are ruined. Do you know why? Because you have concentrated your resources in Tehran.

Continuing his remarks, Khalkhali said: I do not give any value to the figures and statistics from the Central Bank. Your villages are being ruined. Why don't you attend to them? You only attend to Tehran. Why? Give the people electricity, give them resources, why do you give half the budget to Tehran, when it is followed by all this misery, unemployment, and so forth? When you don't attend to the needs of the people, what are the people to do? The people are behind the officials and the government, but these same people say that you have imposed inflation and high prices on us. Why do you execute all these smugglers, but throughout the revolution you have not executed even one perpetrator of what Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani calls economic terrorism? You should name these people. Khalkhali added:

I am surprised at Mr. Herati saying that inflation was 28 percent last year and now it has been held back and has reached 18 percent. I regret this talk, this is outside reality to talk about what inflation is. What difference does it make if it has gone from 10 percent to 28 percent or the reverse? Why do you explain things this way, and let the people say you are playing with numbers and figures? You either haven't perceived reality, or you aren't telling the people the truth.

Mr. Khalkhali added:

You have separated the people from the high prices. No matter what you say, prices are more astronomical this year than last year.

Hoseyn Shahrudi, Shahrud deputy, said: This budget we approve every year is one of the worst budgets that has absolutely no balance between its income and its expenses. Other than two or three poverty-stricken countries, where can you find a country that obtains something on the order of 30 to 35 percent of its budget from loans? What is the reason for this ruined situation and this economic crisis that you have today in the country, and that the government cannot restrain with all the policies it sets and I approve? This issue, the high costs and enormous inflation that now exist in the country, where did it come from? It comes from these very budgets that we approve, and the blame falls on us. The respected commission expert said that one of the distinctions of this budget is that it inclines to the deprived and the oppressed. What I say is that there is no such inclination in the budget at all, rather it inclines in the opposite direction, even though from the superficial point of view we have set a budget for the deprived areas, for the combatants and free people and for the poor and deprived class of society.

Hoseyni then discussed inflation. He said:

Inflation is not such that it is bad for everyone. Inflation is a blessing for 10 percent of society. These wealthy people who became billionaires after the revolution have benefitted from inflation. The ones hurt by inflation are the other 90 percent of the people in society.

He added:

How can this Majles instantly approve a budget that borrows 140 billion tomans? In view of this, is it us causing inflation, or are the market and society doing it? In reality it must be said that the primary deed is done by us.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said:

Dear brothers, just this once, don't vote for this budget bill so the Plan and Budget Organization will have to sit down and think about this country. How long will we keep borrowing and lending? Shouldn't we be thinking about balancing revenues with expenditures one day? The solution is for us to approve one-twelfth or two-twelfths of it to make them sit and balance expenses, because a number of our current expenditures are useless.

Concerning expenditures from borrowed funds, Mr. Panahandeh said:

Concerning the current expenses mentioned by Mr. Herati, there is no increase. According to the estimate from the Accounting Court, we have a 29 percent increase in current costs, while about half our national budget is borrowed money, then we borrow money and spend it on current work and yet you want us to succeed in implementing the five-year plan. Can this be done? Didn't we approve a five-year plan that says the annual budget should be so designed that at the end of the five-year plan borrowing would be reduced to zero? My question is, how much have you reduced this borrowing in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], so we can do the rest of it in the next four years and have the borrowing reach zero at the end of the plan? In the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] we are borrowing 1,349 billion rials, which is a 42 percent increase over the previous year. Over there we approved the plan, and over here we are putting so much pressure on the banking system, what will happen?

*Unofficial Martial Law Reported in Esfahan

90AS0015B London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] A reliable report from Esfahan states that since 29 Esfand [20 March] a kind of unofficial martial law has been in effect in the city.

The 29th of Esfand coincides with the day oil was nationalized in Iran and could provide an occasion for street demonstrations. For this reason the regime of the Islamic Republic, citing the likelihood of demonstrations in Esfahan, mobilized its agents to prevent demonstrations and disperse crowds.

According to this report, the unofficial martial law in Esfahan has not yet ended, and since 29 Bahman [18 February], agents of the Islamic revolutionary committee and the revolutionary guards have been breaking up any group of two or more that is standing and talking in the streets, and they deal harshly and angrily with the people, especially the youth.

This report states that on the first day of the New Year [21 March] at least 50 youth in Esfahan were arrested in various parts of the city, but were released after several hours of detention.

*Disturbances, Opposition Reported in Schools

90AS0015C London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] According to reports from Tehran and the municipalities, in the last week of the year [14-20 March] unrest and various expressions of opposition to the regime of the Islamic Republic took place in the nation's schools.

A confirmed report from Tehran states that in the last weeks of the year, the schools in the southern areas of Tehran practically lost their official atmosphere, and after leaving the school grounds the students would throw their books into the air and then tear up the pictures of Ayatollah Khomeyni printed in the front of each book and throw them away.

According to a report from Esfahan, written on the walls of the high schools and even the grade schools of Esfahan were numerous slogans against the regime of the Islamic government and supporting Reza Pahlavi.

*Large Crowds Respond to Bakhtiar's Call

90AS0015D London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] On 24 March (4 Farvardin) the National Resistance Front of Iran announced that large groups of people in Tehran and Iran's large municipalities answered in the affirmative to Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar's call for gatherings in the parks of the city to chant the slogan "bread and freedom."

Last week, Dr. Bakhtiar issued a call over Radio Iran for the people inside the country to express their opposition to the Islamic Republic on Saturday 4 Farvardin [24 March] from 4 to 6 PM by walking to the parks of the city in any way possible, peacefully and smiling hopefully.

Dr. Bakhtiar asked the people to be orderly and cool to prevent agitation from elements affiliated with the regime.

In a statement issued by the the National Resistance Front of Iran at the end of the day Saturday in Paris, reporters from Radio Iran said: This afternoon the people of Tehran and the municipalities responded to the call from Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar, the leader of the National Resistance Front of Iran, and starting at 3 PM they set out for the city's parks and recreational areas to display their disgust with the anti-Iranian regime of the Islamic Republic.

In this statement it said that in Tehran, the large parks, especially Laleh Park and Mellat Park on Pahlavi street, were filled and then emptied by crowds.

The National Resistance Front of Iran also reported that in Shiraz the people gathered at Falakeh-ye Gaz, Park-e Shahr, Hafeziyeh, and Meydan-e Vali 'Ahd, and in Mashhad Aryamehr Park was filled with a crowd.

According to the National Resistance Front of Iran, in Arak 500 to 600 people gathered in Azadi Park (formerly Shayegan Park) and chanted "bread and freedom." Three of them were arrested by the regime's agents.

The National Resistance Front of Iran confirmed that in the cities of Ahvaz, Esfahan, Tabriz, Mashhad, and Hamadan there was a good response to Dr. Bakhtiar's call.

*6,000 Cross Border in First 3 Days of New Year

90AS0015G London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Finally after 73 years, at dawn on 1 Farvardin [21 March] this year, the gate to the wooden Jalfa bridge was opened to the border residents of Iran (Jalfa) and Soviet Nakhichevan and a group of the people from Soviet Azerbaijan came into the city of Astara to celebrate the new year with their families. On the first day of Farvardin 1,000 people from Nakhichevan entered Iranian soil.

Unrestricted traffic for Iran-Soviet border residents was only permitted for three days, from 1 to 3 Farvardin, and after that free traffic was closed to the people.

New regulations are planned to govern traffic between the border residents of the two nations. These were approved by the two sides some time ago and will become a regular practice in the near future.

Based on the new regulations, border residents will be permitted to travel to the other side four times a year, to remain in the host country 15 days each time, restricted to a range of 45 kilometers from the border. The length of the stay can be extended another 15 days when necessary with the approval of the proper officials in the host country.

On 3 Farvardin [24 March] the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY announced that in the first three days of the year 6,000 people from Soviet Azerbaijan came to Iran and 3,500 Iranians went to Soviet Azerbaijan to exchange new year's visits with their relatives.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY announced that traffic moved through the border guard stations at Jalfa and Astara, in addition to the usual passage points.

The people of Iran welcomed the people of Soviet Azerbaijan with flowers and sweets during the New Year holidays. No religious or political matters were discussed during these visits, only the New Year and the ancient Iranian traditions. This time, the regime of the Islamic Republic, which abuses every opportunity to stress the importance of the Islamic issues and the ties between the people of Soviet Azerbaijan and Iran, was unable to find a pretext to raise these issues.

Once again the border between Jalfa and Astara was closed with the statement of 3 Farvardin, but traffic is to begin soon between the border areas on the basis of a consular agreement between the two countries.

*Minister of Education Announces New Appointments

90AS0015O Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] In a decree issued by Dr. Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, minister of education and training, Engineer Gholamhoseyn Amini was appointed general manager of the Office of Organization and Coordination of Regional Councils in this ministry, and Engineer Gholamhoseyn Heydari Qomi-Tafreshi was appointed general manager of education and training for Central Province (Arak).

*More New Appointments Announced

90AS0015P Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] In a decree by Engineer Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Behkish was appointed as this ministry's economic consultant.

By order of Dr. 'Ali Qanbari, deputy minister of Construction Jihad and head of the Tribal Affairs Organization of Iran, Hushang Janipur was appointed general manager of tribal affairs for Khuzestan Province and assumed duties.

Likewise, in a decree from Dr. 'Ali Qanbari, deputy minister of Construction Jihad and head of the Tribal Affairs Organization of Iran, Mr. Gholamhoseyn Behme'i was appointed general manager of the organization's administrative and financial affairs and assumed duties.

*Khalkhali Comments on High Cost of Living

*90AS0015M London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 4*

[Text] If 20 or 15 percent of our villages were ruined at the start of the revolution, today 80 percent of our villages are ruined, because we have spent all of our resources in Tehran. If you go out of Tehran and look at the other cities, they are all in ruins. Give the people resources so they won't have to spend half the budget in Tehran. The people want to know who has imposed this inflation on the people, why do you execute the smuggler, but not the economic terrorist?

The above remarks are part of a speech made by Majles deputy Sadeq Khalkhali in opposition to the National Budget Bill for the current year. Noting the insufferable high prices and rampant inflation in the Islamic Republic, Sadeq Khalkhali said: I'm not interested in numbers, because these figures mean one thing when they are raised in the Plan and Budget Commission, and something else to the Accounting Court and the government's representative.

This deputy added: Mr. Herati says that inflation was 28 percent last year and that it has been held this year to 18 percent. I regret this. This is outside reality to talk about whether inflation is higher or lower than 28 percent. The people are bent down with the weight of inflation. No matter what you say, high prices are much worse this year than last year.

Elsewhere in his talk, Sadeq Khalkhali said: Look at the volume of currency notes in our private sector, see how much it used to be and how much it is now. There are 1,600 billion tomans in currency notes in circulation. You must ask, where is this money? The money is in the hands of a few hoarders and merchants. If you want to balance the national budget, why don't you go after the gold-sellers and wealthy people?

*Exports of Crude to Italy Increased in 1989

*90AS0015L London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 4*

[Text] With the purchase of 1.5 million tons of crude oil from the Islamic Republic in the first 11 months of 1989, Italy increased its imports of crude oil from Iran about 25 percent over the same period in 1988.

The Italian Energy and Petroleum Union, in a recent report on the quantity and quality of its crude oil imports, announced that in the first 11 months of last year this country met about 10.1 percent of its oil needs through crude oil purchases from Iran.

In the report published by this union's secretariat, it was explained that Italy's need for imported oil in the period under discussion was about 60.7 million tons, an increase of 3.8 percent over that figure for the same period in 1988.

The Italian Energy and Petroleum Union also announced that in the first 11 months of last year Saudi Arabia exported 5.7 million tons and Iraq exported 2.4 million tons of crude oil to Italy.

*Request Made for Islamic Development Bank Loan

90AS0015J London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] To meet some of its foreign exchange needs, the Islamic Republic has requested a loan from the Islamic Development Bank for the purpose of carrying out development projects in the Five-Year Plan.

News was released concerning the possibility of the loan being granted by this bank at the conclusion of the bank's 14th annual meeting in Algeria.

The Islamic Republic's delegation at the bank's meeting was led by Mohammad Javad Vahaji, the Islamic regime's deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, and at a meeting with the president of the Islamic Development Bank he discussed the possibility of the Islamic Republic's utilization of the bank's financial resources.

In coverage of the results of the 14th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank, the Algerian press announced that the Islamic Development Bank has announced its tacit approval for the procurement of funds to carry out some of the development projects in the Islamic Republic. An Algiers newspaper writes that if the Islamic Development Bank gives financial credit to the Islamic Republic, this bank will receive profits as returns on investments and money loaned, and in this way the Islamic rules will be observed for this loan.

*IMF To Study Request for Financial, Technical Aid

90AS0015I London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] At the beginning of this week the Executive Council of the International Monetary Fund will begin studying the report from its delegation to Tehran on the subject of granting loans and technical assistance to the Islamic regime, and it is expected that the results of that study will be sent soon to the Islamic Republic's economic officials in Tehran. The special delegation of the International Monetary Fund, which went to Tehran in early March, studied monetary and financial issues and policies and economic conditions in the Islamic Republic from various points of view during a stay of several days in the Iranian capital that included visits with the regime's officials and leaders. A high-ranking expert of the International Monetary Fund announced that talks held between representatives sent by the fund to Tehran and the Islamic regime's economic officials show that the Islamic Republic plans to play a more active role in the affairs of the International Monetary Fund.

The weekly economic journal MEED [Middle East Economic Digest] of London wrote concerning this: Even though since its establishment in Iran the officials of the Islamic regime have not completely severed ties with the International Monetary Fund, this country has not been able to participate actively in increasing the capital of this fund, as it had decided to do in 1984.

Continuing its report, this journal adds: It is now expected that the Islamic Republic will increase its share in this fund.

Elsewhere in its article, the publication MEED writes: The likelihood that the Islamic Republic will seek to borrow money from the International Monetary Fund is very slight.

On the basis of reports received from reliable sources, it is expected that after the trip by the three-member delegation sent to Tehran by the International Monetary Fund and with the agreement of the officials of this fund, the Islamic Republic will ask the fund to help it build four dams in various parts of the country.

KEYHAN reports that an expert in international finance said that financial and technical assistance from the World Bank to the Islamic Republic will be contingent upon the aid recipient's full cooperation with the International Monetary Fund in its full supervision of the way in which the funds received are spent.

*Plans To Eliminate Utilities Subsidies Announced

*90AS0015H London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 4*

[Text] During the course of its five-year development plan, the Islamic regime plans gradually to eliminate government subsidies on basic goods and consumer materials. The news of the gradual elimination of subsidies for basic goods was given to news correspondents recently by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization. This official, discussing this government role, said: Subsidies will be eliminated during the Five-Year Plan. The government currently gives subsidies for goods such as petroleum by-products, water, electricity, and electronic and postal communications, and the intent is in the course of the Five-Year Plan to increase the rate for these services significantly and gradually to remove subsidies.

Elsewhere in his press conference, the presidential deputy and chief of the Plan and Budget Organization discussed the government's role in trade. He said: The government will import basic goods, strategic and heavily-used goods, but at the same time during the Five-Year Plan the private sector can also be active in the foreign trade sector, and in this regard producers can import directly from abroad the raw materials they need.

Cabinet Allocates Reconstruction Credit

*LD0904034690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 8 Apr 90*

[Excerpt] During the cabinet session this evening, the main domestic and international events were discussed. In continuation of this session, the regulations on implementing Note 31 of the country's Budget Law for the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] on the reconstruction of the war-damaged areas were reviewed and ratified. On the basis of the first article of these regulations, 81 billion rials development credit has been allocated to the renovation and reconstruction of buildings, installations, machinery and equipment, damaged during the imposed war by the enemy's direct fire or by the counterrevolution. The credit will also meet the cost of compensating the individuals who have incurred losses as the result of the above-mentioned tragedies, and will cover the cost of completing the air raid shelters and creation of installations and buildings, industrial and agricultural units. [passage omitted]

*Reconstruction of War-Damaged Cities Delayed

*90AS0015Q London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 4*

[Text] Mirzadeh, executive aide to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and head of the War Areas Reconstruction Staff, admitted on Saturday of this week that the reconstruction of the seven main war-stricken cities has not yet begun.

These cities are: Abadan, Khorramshahr, Bostan, Dehloran, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zehab, and Qasr-e Shirin. Answering a question from a news correspondent wanting to know the reason for the delayed reconstruction, Mirzadeh claimed that reconstruction and new construction in 58 cities damaged by the war has been completed, but he did not announce the names of these cities. Apparently, these 58 cities were damaged by aerial bombings.

The Tehran newspaper KEYHAN published an article with the headline, "The Oppressed City of Abadan Still Awaits Reconstruction." It said: "The residents of the western part of this free and proud city are waiting for the day when they can go back, and although 20 months have passed since the cease fire was accepted, according to statistics only 500 families have returned to their residences and the rest are waiting to see where the city's reconstruction work is going to end. Will the promises given be kept, or forgotten?"

Official Says Airports To Be Built, Remodeled

NC1104065290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Airports for Arak, Yasuj, Zanjan, Shahr-e Kord, Jiroft, Sabzevar, Shahrud, Bojnurd, and Saravan are to be built and equipped during the first Five-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural development.

This was stated yesterday by Mr. Nuriyan, deputy minister of roads and head of the country's Civil Aviation Organization and of the National Meteorological Organization. He added: The Tabas, Ardebil, and Ilam airports are being built now, and the airports for Urumiyeh, Ahvaz, Bakhtaran, Sanandaj, Abadan, Hamedan, and Shiraz will be remodeled.

He added that during the Five-Year Plan, 100 percent popular investments will be used to build airports in some parts of the country, namely in Lar, Lamard, Rafsanjan, Bam, Kashan, Khoy, Sirjan, and Abadeh. He said that in order to propagate education in the aircraft industry, the Aeroclub will set up eight branches in various parts of the country and these branches will instruct volunteers on flying gliders [preceding word in English] and on parachuting.

He added that the meteorological research center will become a center for Asia and Oceania with the help of the universities and that the center for applicable meteorological research will be expanded with the help of UN development assistance for agriculture, of Tabriz University in the field of hydrometeorology, and of the Esfahan Industrial University in the field of pollution and of ozone measurement.

Mr. Nuriyan added that the network of synoptic [preceding word in English] meteorological and climatological centers and atmospheriums will have automatic equipment, and the automatic center of telecommunications and the main computer center of the Meteorlogical Organization will become operational soon.

Statistics' Monthly Cited on Population Growth

NC1004093490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] The Iranian Statistics Center monthly has published various statistical issues in its latest issue and has thus presented the major social and economic affairs of Iran. The monthly points out that according to the 1365 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] population and housing census, more than 1.2 million were employed in the field of construction. Out of this number 700,000 were residing in cities, and the remaining 500,000 in rural areas.

This statistical journal also reports on population growth and writes that between 1355-65 [1977-1987], the average annual population growth in Iran was slightly over 3.9 percent. On this basis, statistics show that the rate of Iran's population growth is more than double the average rate of the world's population growth.

The Iranian Statistics Center monthly reports that on the basis of the 1365 census, the highest percentage of employed population in the agricultural field was 51.2 percent in Gilan Province and that the lowest percentage was 4.8 percent in the Tehran Province.

The monthly points to the need for reforms in the country's economic situation and states that on the basis of statistics, in order to maintain unemployment at a stable level, about 378,000 new jobs should be created each year.

Editorial Comments on Population Problem

NC0904191590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "What Is the Problem?"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. For a system to function in a such a way that everything falls into place naturally, it must forge ahead under a consistent and durable program and should formulate its policies within a specific framework, requiring a minimum of modification and amendment in the face of the twists and turns of fate.

In order to achieve the above, it is necessary that issues should be tackled at the root and "temporary and short-term expedients" should be dispensed with. Similarly one should refrain from hasty and superficial decisions taken without intensive study.

Most of the opinions aired and the decisions taken nowadays regarding the population increase and the need for its control, as well the methods of control of such a phenomenon, more or less come under the above category and cannot be considered a policy based on principles. [passage omitted]

The proponents of "the need for population control" say that, at present, the country's population is multiplying at an exceedingly rapid rate. They warn that this rate of approximately five percent is very high in the contemporary world. They state that with such an increase in population, it is not possible to provide suitable facilities for education, growth, the blossoming of aptitudes, or even medical facilities.

Under such circumstances, with the continually proliferating needs, and lack of commensurate opportunities and services, we would constantly face a decline in the level of services available to the people. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the opponents and critics of this way of thinking state that the potentials in the country have not been tapped to the optimum and if all discrimination is eliminated, facilities are distributed equitably, and correct planning is implemented with regard to the expansion of facilities, there will be no need for the kind of population control that is being insisted upon.

They say that the problem of our society in general is irregularity, which is a corollary of "population concentrations" and the uneven distribution of the population throughout the country, and not an increase in population as such. Thus, the rural areas, which on principle should be considered the "centers of gravity of the country's agriculture," are not only devoid of any overpopulation problems, but are in fact suffering from sparseness of population which is aggravated by the exodus of the rural population to the cities. In other words, one might say that the present problem of the country stems from uneven distribution of the population between the cities and villages, which is the reason for the imbalance between the urban and rural population over the course of a few decades as a result of the false attraction of cities which has diminished the charm of rural life.

The lack of serious and practical attention to the provision of welfare services in villages and failure to provide the same facilities in villages as in cities have added to the problem and exacerbated it further. [passage omitted]

We are not debating which of the two viewpoints stated above is the more logical one, or which is closer to reality. The crux of our reasoning here is that we should definitely refrain from "temporary and short-term expedients" and hasty and superficial decisions without carefully examining the issues, and that we should accept as a logical principle the point that the problems of Tehran are not representative of the problems of the country as a whole. It is possible that what may resolve Tehran's woes may not be a panacea for the ills of the rest of the country and may in fact generate other problems—which indicates that our policymaking should be within a specific framework requiring the minimum of modification in the face of the twists and turns of fate.

*Tehran's Population To Exceed 20 Million in 2011

*90AS0015K London KEYHAN in Persian
29 Mar 90 p 4*

[Text] If the population of Tehran continues to increase at its present rate, it will be 18 to 20 million by the year 1390 [21 March 2011-20 March 2012].

The above information was given to correspondents and media representatives recently by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the Islamic regime's interior minister. Noting the shortage of green space in the capital, he said: According to current calculations, the average building in Tehran is 1.5 stories, and with this population inflation there will no longer be room to create green space.

The Islamic regime's interior minister said elsewhere in his talk that if an organization wants to work, it must work seriously, and not just talk in slogans.

Karbaschi, the mayor of Tehran, also took part in the Green Space Expansion Day ceremonies in Tehran. He described the pollution of the water and other environmental elements in the capital as regrettable and emphasized that before undertaking a project to expand green space we must think about eliminating the elements and sources of environmental pollution with expert planning and through the use of sufficient specialist manpower and the necessary machinery and equipment.

The mayor of Tehran noted that to date no serious measures have been taken to improve the environment in Tehran. He said: We will have to stop having these symbolic planting ceremonies and rites on Arbor Day, because most of the areas that have been set aside for this purpose have disappeared due to insufficient water and neglect.

Antinarcotics Unit Seizes Opium, Arrests Two

*LD1004132390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1230 GMT 10 Apr 90*

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of Islamic Revolution Committee Guards of Karaj's antinarcotics unit, 14.5 kilograms of opium were seized from two merchants of death. After preliminary investigations, the detainees were handed over to the judicial authorities.

Nepal

Foreign Minister Says Role of King To Change

*BK1004132490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT
10 Apr 90*

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 10 (AFP)—The role of King Birendra will be changed to meet the demands of the people under Nepal's new democratic system, Foreign

Minister Pashupati Rana said Tuesday. Any changes will be "according to the will of the people and the changing times," he said.

Mr. Rana, who took office last Friday [6 April], did not spell out what the changed role of the 46-year-old Harvard educated monarch would be, but observers said he appeared to be hinting strongly that the king would serve as a constitutional monarch.

One of the main prongs of the pro-democracy movement that swept Nepal in the past seven weeks was a curb on the powers of the king, who also headed the partyless panchayat system whose abolition the protestors demanded.

"The monarch is the active leader of the panchayat system. He no longer wants to retain the leadership of the panchayat," the minister told a late afternoon press conference here. He also said a committee had already been set up with the cooperation of the political parties to investigate "excesses" committed by the dismissed government of former Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha.

He declined however to confirm or deny whether Mr. Shrestha and three other leading figures of the former panchayat government had been placed under "protective detention". Reliable sources here said the four had been held in Army camps, apparently indicating that the king held them responsible for the killings and excesses during the seven-week pro-democracy campaign.

Mr. Rana also remained tight-lipped on what he described as intense "tripartite" efforts by the king, the government and the country's newly legalized left and centrist political parties to reach an agreement on the future political shape of Nepal. But he indicated that the present government was trying to retain the panchayat as a party, rather than abolish it altogether. Abolition of the panchayat was another primary demand of the protestors, thousands of whom, including academics and human rights activists, were arrested, scores killed and hundreds wounded during the pro-democracy movement.

"It is far from clear whether everyone wants the panchayat to go," Mr. Rana said, echoing comments earlier in the day by formerly-banned National Congress (NC) leader Krishna Prasad Bhattaray, who said the government appeared to be trying for a three-party system which would include the panchayat as one party.

Mr. Bhattaray said he saw the NC playing a centrist role in such a system, standing between the country's powerful leftists and the panchayat, a force that is difficult to ignore after 30 years in power.

As Mr. Rana spoke, extreme leftist speakers drew a crowd of some 4,000 to 5,000 in an open air theatre in the center of Kathmandu calling for street demonstrations to continue until "true democracy" had been achieved. The group, the United National People's Movement, has claimed it was left out of critical negotiations between the king, the NC and the United Leftist Front over the weekend, which resulted in the lifting of the 30-year ban on political parties.

Mr. Rana said, however, that the government had been trying to include the movement's leaders but had had no response from them. He also warned against expecting rapid changes, but denied that talks with the political parties were stalemated and pleaded for an element of secrecy to enable them to succeed.

"The course of events will tell us what is reality," he said. "Let the talks finish before describing them as intense struggle or intense cooperation... the country is not just Kathmandu, we can only see when election results are in (whether the people want the abolition of the panchayat)".

Mr. Rana, who also holds the communications portfolio, said under the new political system, the Nepalese press would enjoy full freedom.

"The press is totally free," he said.

Nepali Congress Stakes Claim To Form Government

BK1104100590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] The Nepalese Government has decided to withdraw the cases against all those taken into custody during the movement for democracy, it was officially announced in Kathmandu today. This will include those cases also where legal action has already been initiated.

Meanwhile, Nepali Congress has staked its claim to form the interim national government with the United Left Front and the Panches [Panchayat members]. The congress president told the PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Kathmandu today that the left parties have expressed the view that Nepali Congress should form the government since it spearheaded the campaign for democracy.

Prime Minister Pledges Quick Action on Reforms

BK1104100890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 11 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 11 (AFP)—Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand went on national television and radio to pledge speedy government action as pressure mounted here Wednesday [11 April] for the government to implement promised democratic reforms. Mr. Chand said in the late Tuesday night [10 April] broadcast that final negotiations should take place Wednesday with communists and the Nepali Congress for formation of an interim coalition government. Party sources said here Wednesday that the United Leftist Front had proposed seven candidates representing its constituent parties, the Congress two to four and the Panchayat five to seven.

The assurances came as dissatisfaction grew in Kathmandu over a delay in dissolving the National Panchayat (parliament), one of the main demands of protestors in the seven-week long pro-democracy movement. Observers here, commenting on the growing popular anger, said they feared worse street violence if the government did not act faster to implement King Birendra's promises of instituting a multiparty system, holding elections and dissolving the Panchayat.

Dissatisfaction was most evident among the powerful communist groups which have strong influence in professional and academic circles here, and which Tuesday afternoon staged a mass rally in an open-air auditorium in the center of the city that drew some 5,000 people. Among the speakers demanding immediate government action was leftist Panchayat member Padma Ratna Tuladhar, who said that if the king did not dissolve the National Panchayat and constitute a coalition government under the chairmanship of the king himself, people would be compelled to return to the streets.

Other signs that Monday's [9 April] jubilation over the king bowing to the demands for a multiparty system was turning to anger included threatened strike action by doctors, clashes between Congress youth and young leftists, incidents of rock throwing, and a continuing bank strike. One person was reportedly killed in the angry clash between communist supporters and Congress youth Tuesday night near Balajyu, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, student sources said. Residents of several Kathmandu suburbs reported that groups of youths had roamed through the streets late Tuesday night hurling rocks, apparently indiscriminately.

The doctors Wednesday threatened a nationwide strike by all doctors, paramedics and nurses if the home minister, Nayan Bahadur Swanr, did not resign within three days. They were protesting the beating up of a colleague by armed riot police who had stopped an ambulance carrying wounded in firing Sunday night [8 April], hospital sources said. The Nepal Medical Association (NMA) in a strongly worded statement Wednesday criticized "misbehaviour" and "abusive language" allegedly used by the home minister against a doctor on emergency duty Sunday night, just before the curfew was lifted. The doctor had called him and asked him to use his good offices to help clear the ambulance to pick up the victims of the shooting, the statement said. The NMA also slammed police and army security personnel for stopping an ambulance trying to rescue the injured, saying it was "a gross violation of human rights."

At least five people were shot dead Sunday night, the last night of the indefinite curfew imposed to try and halt the mounting pro-democracy movement, hospital sources had said.

Observers here said the strike threat could have a snowball effect in the present tense atmosphere in which the extreme leftists were looking for opportunities to restart the street protests. The extremists are angry at what they see as a "sellout" by the Nepali Congress and United Leftist Front in agreeing to work together with the king to defuse the crisis.

Meanwhile several thousand nonmanagement level employees of the Nepal Rastra (Central) Bank, continued a strike which started Monday, and said they would stay out until a list of 27 nonpolitical demands were met. The strike affected the central office, the main banking office in the capital, and branch offices in several districts outside Kathmandu.

Reports from outlying townships Wednesday said the political parties had taken out processions and held meetings Tuesday also calling for the immediate formation of an interim coalition government.

Pakistan

One Killed, Four Injured in Hyderabad Shooting

BK1104083990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] One girl was killed and four persons injured in a shooting incident in the railway colony area of Hyderabad last night. The injured have been admitted to Bhitai Hospital. According to hospital sources, all of the injured persons are now out of danger.

Current Situation in Sindh Province Reviewed

BK1104092590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 11 Apr 90

[By Masood Shah]

[Text] Karachi, April 11 (AFP)—Four people were killed Tuesday [10 April] in Sindh Province as conflict between Pakistan's ruling party and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) continued, along with terrorist acts by rival gangs, police said. The youngest victim was a four-year-old girl killed in a hail of bullets. Her four wounded playmates were rushed to hospital in Hyderabad, 110 miles (176 kilometers) north of here.

A daylight curfew was lifted from Hyderabad, but schools and colleges remained unopen after a three-week forced closure.

Three persons were also slain Tuesday by gunmen in Karachi, Larkana and Kotdiji, according to police reports.

The situation was extremely tense in Karachi, where a comatose leader of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) youth wing lay in hospital after a violent attack on his group, and where MQM chief Altaf Hussain has been on a fast-to-death since Sunday [8 April].

Local press reports Wednesday quoted hospital sources as saying that Najib Ahmed, an injured leader of the People's Students Federation (PSF), was in deteriorating condition. He was shot in a gunbattle Friday [6 April].

The daily DAWN cited the sources as saying Tuesday [10 April] that Mr. Ahmed's brain was "not working" and he was on a life-support system.

Mr. Hussain, 36, refusing food or water since Sunday, told supporters here that the ruling PPP government was out to "eliminate Muhajirs in Sindh." He advised the Urdu-speaking Muhajir settlers from India to "be prepared for the worst," repeating his demand for the arrest of gunmen who killed 12 people in Karachi on Friday.

Mr. Hussain, a rival of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, alleged that PPP "terrorists" killed more than 30 Muhajirs in the southern province since March 20, most of them in Karachi and Hyderabad, but had not been arrested. He has also been demanding the release of several MQM activists.

The MQM joined in coalition with the PPP in Sindh when Ms. Bhutto took office in December 1988, but later broke off and allied with the opposition.

Mr. Hussain said he had undertaken his fast, which hundreds of supporters joined, to force the government to protect people's lives and property, but he said the government seemed to be planning hostile actions against the Muhajirs.

A government spokesman denied Mr. Hussain's accusations, saying "the doors of negotiations were open." But the spokesman said that the PPP government would talk only with parties believing in the supremacy of law and the Constitution. He said all possible steps would be taken to keep the peace, but that certain linguistic groups, "which believe in politics of terrorism and blackmailing, are bent upon disrupting peaceful conditions" in Sindh. The spokesman also said the government would not release anyone arrested for murder or terrorism and would resist pressure to do so.

Meanwhile, several professional associations including doctors, lawyers, journalists, teachers and bank employees have issued a joint statement condemning confrontational politics and terrorism. The statement said the people of Sindh had hoped that elected officials would "strengthen civilised, democratic traditions, but they resorted to undemocratic and dubious devices and popularised the use of violence, which was the way of the authoritarian regimes of the past." It said Sindh's schools were closed for almost a year and "have been turned into battlefields."

Begum Nusrat Bhutto, senior federal minister in her daughter's cabinet and the PPP's chairperson, said in Islamabad Tuesday that the Karachi situation resulted from the MQM-PPP confrontation, but denied that Ms. Bhutto's federal government had anything to do with it. Asked what should be done if other prominent opposition leaders went on hunger strike, Begum Bhutto said: "If they want it, let them do it. They need it."

PPP Youth Leader Dies; Tanks Deployed

BK1104093290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Karachi, April 11 (AFP)—Ruling party youth wing leader Najib Ahmed, injured in a gun battle on Friday [6 April], died from his bullet wounds Wednesday afternoon [11 April], hospital sources said. Tanks and armoured personal carriers were deployed in the city centre as supporters of the People's Student Federation, the youth wing of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), responded tensely to news of Mr. Ahmed's death.

Four people had been killed Tuesday [10 April] in Sindh Province amid continuing conflict between the PPP and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), along with terrorist acts by rival gangs, police said.

'Extraordinary' Security Measures in Karachi

BK1104123390 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Apr 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Tanks and armored personnel carriers have been moved onto the streets of the southern Pakistani city of Karachi to prevent possible violence after the death of the prominent student leader, Najib Ahmed, who died from injuries sustained in an ambush last Friday [6 April]. Mr. Ahmed was a key figure in the militant student wing of the governing People's Party of Ms. Benazir Bhutto. As Lyce Doucet reports, there are fears of new clashes with the rival political group, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement.

[Begin Lyce Doucet recording] Informed sources say Najib Ahmed had been clinically dead for a few days. But he had been kept on a respiratory machine amid fears that his death would spark new political violence in Pakistan's largest city. Tanks were moved into the heart of Karachi after his death was officially announced. It is the first time in decades that the government has resorted to such extraordinary security measures. Mr. Ahmed was shot in an ambush last Friday, which led to clashes with the powerful Muhajir Qaumi Movement or MQM. Emotions are still rife in its rival camp as the MQM leader, Altaf Hussain, continues his hunger strike. He insists he will starve himself to death unless his members are released from prison and those responsible for the weekend killings are arrested, demands Ms. Bhutto's government has rejected as unreasonable. Armored personnel carriers are patrolling Karachi to prevent loyal activists from both camps from taking to the streets [end recording].

Official Says Japan To Increase Aid Package

OW1104072090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0622 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 11, KYODO—Japan will increase its economic assistance to Pakistan despite its new economic assistance program for East European countries, a Pakistan government official said Wednesday [11 April].

Vassem Jaffery, prime ministerial adviser on economic affairs, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Japan was Pakistan's biggest trading partner and a leading donor in the aid-to-Pakistan consortium. Top-level Japanese officials during discussions with Pakistani Government officials recently pledged that "despite the allocation of sizable funds for East European states, Japan will maintain and even enhance the level of its assistance to Pakistan," he said.

According to official figures, Japan provided 490 million dollars to Pakistan during fiscal year 1988-89, making her the biggest aid donor to Pakistan.

The United States recently slashed 25 million dollars from allocations to Pakistan in its foreign assistance bill to meet new aid requirements for East Europe countries.

Jaffery said Pakistan would like Japan to increase the proportion of commodity assistance in its overall aid package.

Asked to comment on the fact that a large number of Japanese-aided projects were in the pipeline, awaiting government approval, Jaffery said in many cases work on projects is usually held up for lack of counterpart funds. The Pakistani Government is committed to tight financial and fiscal discipline and therfore lack of rupee resources was delaying some important projects, he said.

Jaffery did not agree with the view that because of the upsurge in the value of the Japanese currency, Japanese goods and therefore Japanese business was becoming uncompetitive. He pointed out that a leading Japanese multinational was working on the Jamshoro-I Power Plant and another leading Japanese company is participating in construction of Pakistan's first private-sector power plant. Mitsui and Co. of Japan is expected to provide all the units for a 1,200 megawatt thermal power plant being set up at Hub Chowki near Karachi by a trilateral consortium of Saudi Arabian, British, and Japanese companies.

Jaffery disclosed that another Japanese company, in collaboration with a Korean and a Pakistani company, was setting up a big polyester fiber plant in the Northwest Frontier Province. He expressed confidence that the deregulation and privitization launched by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would encourage Japanese investors to come to Pakistan to avail the investment opportunities in the country.

Production of Tank, Armored Vehicles Hailed

BK1004134790 Lahore JANG in Urdu 20 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Taxila (PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL)—Pakistan has made yet another important achievement in defense production by developing the very modern "T-69 MP" tank. The tank, which is equipped with a 105mm gun and a more powerful engine, constitutes a masterpiece of modern technology. Pakistan has also produced an ARVW-653 armored recovery vehicle and an M-113 A2 armored personnel carrier.

General Aslam Beg [chief of the Army staff] attended a ceremony that was held when the tank and the other vehicles rolled out of the factory. The tank and the other weapons will be displayed during the Pakistan Day parade in Islamabad on 23 March. Addressing officers and workers of the Heavy Rebuild Factory in Taxila after the inauguration, Gen. Aslam Beg described the achievement as an important stride toward self-sufficiency in defense requirements for Pakistan. The chief of Army staff appreciated the laborious effort and ingenuity of all those who worked on the project and said that the tank has been produced three months ahead of schedule.

Gen. Aslam Beg said that production of the tank was started with 50 percent deletion [preceding word in English], with a plan to totally complete it within two years. The first consignment of the tank will be delivered to the armed forces in June 1991 for a trial, which will be followed by large-scale production. He said that, God willing, it will be one of the world's best tanks and a masterpiece of modern technology. The general said the most important thing in indigenous production of a tank is attaining design capability. This is the first time Pakistan has achieved technological expertise in tank production. It deserves to be mentioned here that production of the tank will start on 31 December 1990 and 200 tanks will be produced annually.

Editorial: India 'Must Learn' From Intervention

BK0804143190 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Mar 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Retreat From Sri Lanka"]

[Text] The return of the last Indian soldier from Sri Lanka should give New Delhi some food for thought. The so-called Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) was deployed in Sri Lanka in 1987 ostensibly to counter the threat posed to the country's security and integrity by the armed wing of the Tamil separatists. But during over two and a half years of engagement there it dismally failed to realise any of its stated or unstated aims. The unstated objective appeared to be the use of the IPKF as an instrument of policy to emphasise India's image as a pre-eminent power and regional policeman. This was not what President Jayawardene wanted when he sought India's help in quelling Tamil insurgency. The former President had hoped that India would be able to pacify the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and persuade it to join the political mainstream so as to find a political solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict. Instead, as is always characteristic of expeditionary forces, Indian soldiers tended to overstep the limits of their pacification role, which aroused the LTTE's wrath.

The result was a full-blown military operation in which the IPKF found itself in deadly conflict with the LTTE. The Indian soldiers often committed excesses against the non-combatants in areas under their control, and there were repeated massacres.

Soon, the Indians found themselves opposed by both Mr. Jayawardene's successor, Mr. Premadasa, and the LTTE. After dragging its feet for no plausible reasons, India eventually had to bow to the will of the Sri Lankan people and their government and withdraw. Thus, after losing about 1,100 men and causing a large number of civilian deaths, besides colossal destruction in the countryside, the Indians have packed up and gone, leaving in their wake nothing but bitter memories. It is time New Delhi tried to learn what the old-timers in the business of military intervention, such as those in Vietnam and Afghanistan, learnt to their great sorrow and remorse: a country which embarks on military intervention can never hope to be loved in the host country. In the larger South Asian scenario, New Delhi must learn its lessons well. Where even "real" superpowers have failed, what chances does a "mini-superpower" have in the way of achieving regional peace and stability through use of force.

Sri Lanka

Government Says Tamil Areas Returning to Normal

BK1004153090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 10 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Tuesday [10 April] said normalcy had been restored in the island's Tamil areas, from where India pulled out its troops last month after battling separatist rebels for more than two years. The government claim was made in a statement issued shortly after Justice Minister Shahul Hameed continued peace talks here with the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group.

"Both the LTTE and law enforcement authorities expressed satisfaction that there is a marked improvement in the law and order situation in the northeast," said the statement, referring to the sprawling Tamil-majority province. "It was observed that normalcy was fast being restored and that the people were now able to go about their daily pursuits without interruption," it added.

The statement followed a two-hour meeting between Mr. Hameed and top Sri Lankan defence and police officials with an LTTE team headed by its theoretician Anton Balasingham which arrived here Monday [9 April] from the northern town of Jaffna.

But the government claim was immediately refuted by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which controls the regional government in the Northeastern Province and is violently anti-LTTE.

"The government and the LTTE cannot take the whole country for a ride by hiding all the real issues by flowery statements," EPRLF spokesman Abbo Yusuf said here. Mr. Yusuf accused the LTTE of "terrorising" the people and rival political activists in the Northeastern Province where India deployed troops under a July 1987 pact with Colombo to end Tamil separatism.

"The normalisation (of life in the northeast) is only superficial," he said. "Deeply, the cancer of terrorism is enveloping the whole society."

The LTTE was the only major Tamil group which repudiated the 1987 pact and refused to lay down arms. It fought a bitter bush war against the Indian troops for more than two years from October 1987, leaving thousands dead. It opened peace talks with Colombo last April, prompting the Sri Lankan Government to demand an Indian troop withdrawal. The last Indian soldier sailed home on March 24.

Since the Indian pullout, the northeast has come under the virtual control of the LTTE, which has hundreds of armed cadres. Members of the EPRLF and other rival Tamil and Moslem groups have however fled the region.

The LTTE team was due to meet President Ranasinghe Premadasa later Tuesday.

President Holds Talks With LTTE Leaders

BK1104054090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0516 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 11 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa held talks with the dominant Tamil rebel group which virtually controls the island's northeast, officials said Wednesday [11 April]. The discussions with the leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were held in a government building in the heart of Colombo late Tuesday [10 April], the officials said. No details were immediately available.

The LTTE delegation, which flew in Monday [9 April] from northern Jaffna town, is headed by the group's deputy leader Gopalasamy Mahendirajah and includes Anton Balasingham, the LTTE theoretician. The LTTE opened peace talks with Colombo in April last, about 28 months after it launched a bloody guerrilla war against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority northeast to end Tamil separatism. The Indian troops, which came to Sri Lanka under a July 1987 bilateral pact, returned home last month.

The LTTE team earlier Tuesday met Justice Minister A.C.S. Hameed and top security officials here to discuss the law and order situation in the sprawling northeast, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority community. The government said Tuesday after the talks that normalcy had been restored in the region, where the LTTE has hundreds of cadres under arms.

The LTTE wants Colombo to repeal a 1983 constitutional amendment which bars political groups from espousing separation.